

OSSHE opts to reject engineering merger

The Oregon State System of Higher Education decided Friday to discard a plan that would have merged the electrical engineering departments at Portland State University and Oregon State University.

This was much to the relief of PSU President Judith Ramaley, who has fought the plan since its inception last June. PSU officials said the consolidation plan would have weakened the university's urban role and reputation in the state.

The original plan would have consolidated the electrical engineering schools with a stronger presence in Portland under OSU control. Instead, the OSSHE board approved a plan to keep the schools autonomous and promote cooperation.

"I'm pleased," Ramaley told *The Oregonian* on Friday. "This is an approach that puts together the best perspectives and puts together a powerful package."

Oregon's high-tech business

NEWS briefly

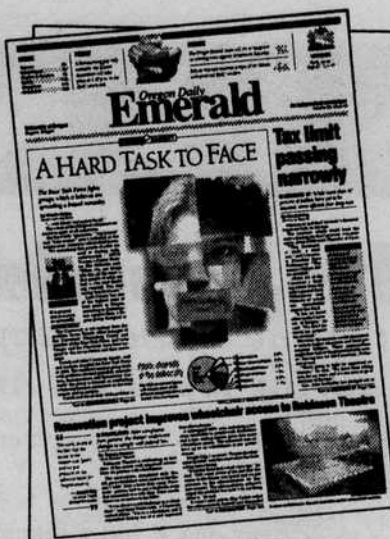
leaders want higher education to double its production of electrical engineers and computer science graduates each year. Oregon currently graduates about 175 electrical engineers per year.

Other items on the agenda included:

■ The board supported the University's proposal to create a statewide School of Computing in Portland with the University, OSU and PSU all participating. Each campus would still offer courses at their individual campuses.

■ The board approved the University's plan to buy the historic Willamette Block building that houses the UO Portland Center. The sale of \$2.5 million in state revenue bonds will finance the purchase of the building located in Portland.

—Compiled by Shana Cohn



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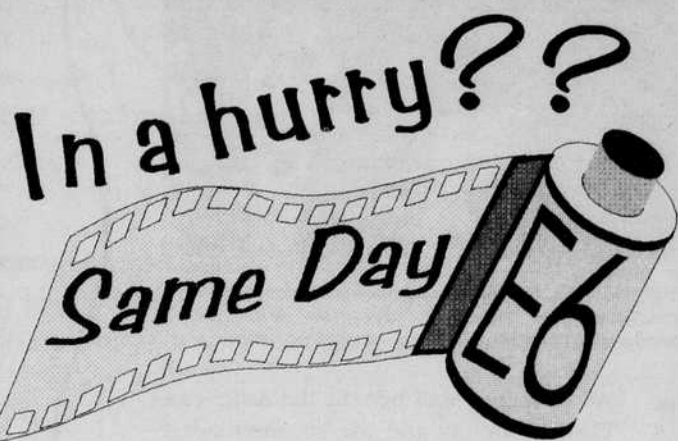
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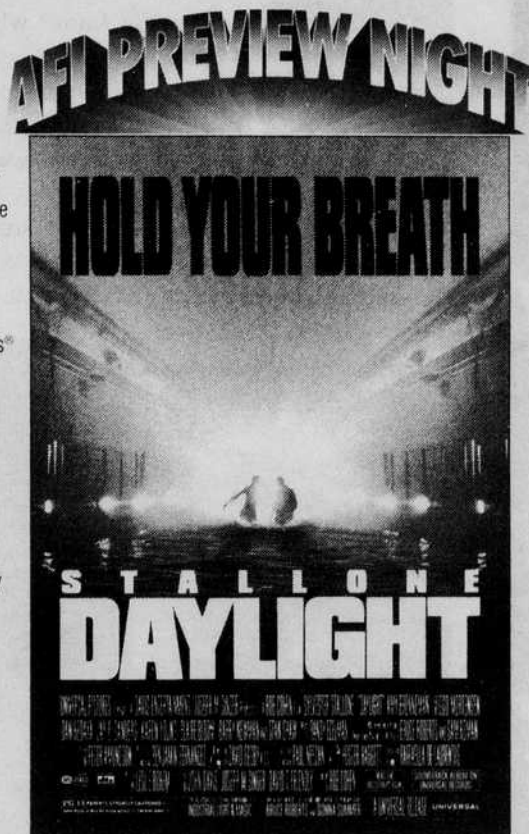
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