

Lessons: CD marketed in Japan

Continued from Page 1

University O'Connell Multimedia Lab. The College, based in Osaka, Japan, contracted the lab to execute the project. The project was completed in 12 months, a record for the lab, O'Connell said. This innovative CD-Rom that "edutains" was released in Japan just before the Christmas shopping season.

"The project provided an opportunity for another successful partnership between the University and private business," said Stedman Upham, University vice provost for research and dean of the graduate school. "Alphaplanet" clearly demonstrates the professional quality of the work done here."

The O'Connell Multimedia Lab (formerly known as the New Media Design Lab) was developed in 1994 by O'Connell and Craig Hickman. O'Connell is an experienced expert in animation, and Hickman developed and designed "Kid Pix," a children's drawing software program that has received 19 awards. The lab collaborates with international businesses to develop cross-cultural multimedia edutainment products for the worldwide computer market.

The cutting-edge training involves a variety of students, alum-



One of the screens on the "Alphaplanet" CD-ROM.

nus, faculty and graduate top animators, illustrators, musicians and programmers from the Fine and Applied Arts program.

Although the O'Connell lab will receive no royalties from "Alphaplanet," it will "bargain for royalties in the future," O'Connell said. The Alphaplanet experience has put the University on the map in terms of edutainment and multimedia experience.

O'Connell plans to travel to Japan later this month to meet with prospective clients for the O'Connell Multimedia Labs next venture.

The "Alphaplanet" project was

conceived by Takuma Takahara, a University alumnus who set up educational seminars in Japan, O'Connell said. In addition, University graduate students and recent graduates who worked on the project's core team include lead animator and illustrator Liao, project manager Chris Hammond, music composer Hirohiko Shirahata, programmer Anthony Michaelis and assistant illustrator Kelvin Lee.

University students Chung-Kai Lee, Denise Scavera, Danny Rubyono and Oregon State University student Sean O'Connell also worked on the project.

Home: Design team faced challenges

Continued from Page 1

es and avoids fluorescent lighting in order to present a comfortable atmosphere for residents, Tepfer said.

"It needed to be home-like but maintainable," he said.

Another challenge was finding a location, because gaining approval from a neighborhood to build a shelter for mentally ill patients isn't easy, Tepfer said.

"Finding a facility for the project was a tremendous challenge," said Sieve Manela, who coordi-

nated the project for Lane County.

The temple, built in the 1940s, had been enlarged at least twice and with that more problems in designing the facility occurred, Tepfer said.

"Essentially, we had to tie together three separate buildings with different floor levels and different designs into a single dormitory-style building," Tepfer said. "The building was changed on the inside rather dramatically."

University landscape architecture students will have future involvement with the project by de-

signing the landscape architecture for the facility, Manela said.

Manela said the county saved money by contracting with the University Center for Housing Innovation.

A \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development made the project possible. Other contributors were the Oregon Housing and Community Services, the Oregon Department of Economic Development and the Oregon Mental Health Division.



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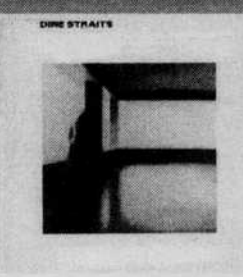

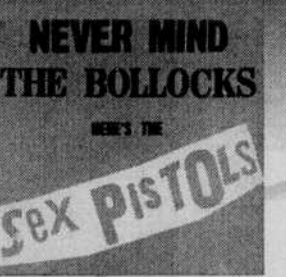


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