EMU noise disrupts conference

■ **RENOVATION:** *Speakers were interrupted by the sound of construction outside*

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

The jackhammering of the EMU Courtyard renovation has begun to affect everyday life and events at the EMU. Thursday attendants of the Native American Literature Conference were disturbed by construction noise that interrupted speeches and posed an overall inconvenience.

Speakers from across the country were giving speeches in both the EMU Ballroom and Gerlinger Lounge, said Gillian Argoff, a student assistant at the Oregon Humanities Center, which is hosting the conference.

"Gerlinger Alumni Lounge has no air conditioning, so you want to open the windows to cool the room down," Argoff said. "But as soon as you open the windows, the [construction] noise comes in and echoes. You can't really hear the speakers very well. It's disrespectful to the speakers."

"It seems odd to me when they scheduled this construction during when so much is going on — University Day, the Pow Wow, the Folk Festival," said Rutham Maguire, office manager of the OHC.

However, Maguire said no official complaints have yet been made to EMU officials. Instead, conference officials are trying to cope with the noise.

Susan Racette, business manager for the EMU, said, "We had to start now if we wanted the construction done by August 1998. Construction will take 13 months. We basically forewarn people that there will be some jackhammering going on."

However, Racette said the conference and other events taking place over the weekend would get relief from the noise because there would be no construction during the weekend.

To compound the problem, the elevator near the ballroom broke down.

People who needed wheelchair access would not be able to get to the ballroom or the ballroom lobby where the conference has registration tables and speakers.

"They're going to have to take the freight elevator, which is the most demeaning thing," Argoff said. "If this is a conference about diversity, then the disabled community got 'shafted,' for lack of a better word."

However, Argoff said, to her knowledge nobody has needed to use the freight elevator yet.

Dana Winitzky, EMU facility manager, said the elevator broke down because of its age. "The elevator is 46 years old," he said.

Winitzky had not received the repair report yet, so he did not know what the exact cause of the breakdown was. However, he said the elevator was fixed quickly.

Virginia Johnson, University scheduling officer who is responsible for scheduling events at the EMU, declined to comment. EMU director Dusty Miller could not be reached for comment.

TODAY'S NEWS BRIEFLY

Reception held to honor peer advisers

Students who have worked as peer advisers this school year are invited to the annual recognition and awards reception today at 3:30 p.m. in the Collier House. Joe Wade, director of Academic Advising and Student Services, and Peer Advising Coordinator Wendy Haws will be speaking at the reception, as well as numerous faculty coordinators from different departments.

This year two outstanding peer advisers will be given awards based on their long-standing commitment, zest and innovation their work has brought to their department's peer advising office. The students will receive gifts at the reception. In addition, Dr. Carolin Keutzer, faculty coordinator for the Psychology peer advising program, will be recognized for her 20 years of service. She is retiring at the end of spring term.

Students can send shoes to new use

Students' old shoes have a place to retire to today. A reuse-a-shoe event will be gathering old shoes to be recycled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at a table in the EMU. The shoes will be ground up and used in athletic surfaces. Anyone who donates a pair will receive a $3.00 off coupon good for a medium or large pizza at Track Town Pizza.

Greeks will clean up mess along millrace

University fraternity and sorority members will participate in a Eugene Millrace cleanup this Sunday to remove debris. Students are joining the city's public works staff to clean up the three-block section of the millrace between Alder and Ferry streets. The clean-up begins at 11 a.m. and additional volunteers are encouraged to participate. Volunteers should wear boots and gloves and plan to work for several hours.

Kitzhaber to speak at law graduation

Graduating student representatives from the University's law school selected Governor John Kitzhaber to speak at the commencement ceremony Sunday because of his governmental experience and prominence in Oregon. Kitzhaber was chosen through a survey by representatives of the class who helped plan commencement.

Law school dean Charles R. O'Kelly, Jr. will also award Wendell Wyatt, a prominent Portland attorney, the Meritorious Service Award prior to Governor Kitzhaber's commencement address. The award was established by the University's law faculty in 1984, and is awarded annually at the law school's commencement ceremony.

Wyatt was chosen to receive the award in recognition of outstanding service to the administration of justice and legal education in Oregon.

The ceremony, which will honor approximately 160 graduates, is open to the public and will begin at 11 a.m. in the Silva Concert Hall at the Hult Center. A reception honoring the graduates, their families and friends, and guests of the School of Law will follow the commencement ceremony at the UO Law Center, 1101 Kincaid St.. The reception should begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. and end around 4:30 p.m., said Jocelyn Dyer, assistant dean for student affairs of the School of Law.

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