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Education Annex may get new front porch

A planning committee decided a porch would prevent the building's front door from rotting

By Nicole Kristal
Higher Education Reporter

There's no doubt that the Education Annex building has been through a lot since its construction in 1922.

Now in its third location and facing west, the front of the building is pelted with so much rain that the front door has started to rot.

These problems, among others, played a role in the Campus Planning Committee's decision Thurs-

day to approve a plan to build a porch for the front of the building.

"We will be upgrading the porch and making some interior layout changes," architect Carolyn Kranzler said.

Chris Ramey, director of University Planning, made the argument in favor of preserving the building based on its historical significance.

"From an architectural viewpoint, we have no other building like that on campus," he said.

The building was designed by Ellis Lawrence, the first University architect and designer of the Museum of Art, Gerlinger, and Knight Library. It currently houses

the Talented and Gifted Institute for the Development of Educational Achievement program.

Most of Lawrence's buildings on campus have been altered. Kranzler said the Education Annex, with the exception of one moved wall, has not been significantly altered.

"My attitude is to always preserve what's there if I can," Kranzler said.

Jerry Medler, an associate professor of political science, strongly opposed the plan.

"I am personally very much against putting another stick or nickel into this building," Medler said. "It's not important."

Medler argued that the build-

ing, which he said has been used primarily as storage space for the education department, was built only temporarily for fund raising in 1922.

The construction, for which no starting date has been set, will cost about \$50,000.

Medler told architect Carolyn Kranzler, "I like your design, but that's not the issue."

Every committee member except Medler approved the plan.

Committee Chair Theodore Palmer said the committee is composed of professors who "love the campus" and want to make sure it looks good.

'Holiday Junction' train exhibit chugs into OMSI

The event will feature many vintage model trains from the past and elaborate layouts

By Scott Pesznecker
Freelance Reporter

Trains may not traditionally come to mind when thinking of ways to celebrate the holiday season, but the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry feels trains are on the right track.

For the first time, OMSI, which is located near downtown Portland, is exhibiting "Holiday Junction: A Winter Wonderland of Trains" from Dec. 13 to 21.

Hundreds of vintage model trains from various decades will be part of the exhibit. There will

also be "elaborate working model train layouts" where visitors can actually operate the controls.

"Local groups, collectors, train lovers and historians are all bringing their own items to the event," said Kathrin Larson, OMSI public relations manager. "Everyone is very excited."

OMSI decided to incorporate trains into its holiday theme because they are "so popular in the Northwest," Larson said.

"Trains have a very rich history, and we saw lots of interest for them from visitors and members," she said. "We figured that trains are a good way to kick off the season."

Various collections will be supplied by the National Railway Historical Society and SP&S His-

torical Society. Memorabilia, such as train whistles, conductor uniforms, lanterns and ticket punchers, are included in the collections.

The event will also feature railroad artifacts. These include railroad switching signals, a hand car, the Mt. Hood Railroad's dinner train booth, antique dining car china and silver, and a large locomotive bell.

"We feel that this event will be very good for our mission [at OMSI]," Larson said. "We always try to make activities educational as well. This event should be lots of fun."

Another OMSI event for the holidays is a laser-light show. Dubbed "Laser Nutcracker Fantasy," it began Nov. 27 and contin-

ues through Jan. 1.

The laser show, which is based on the traditional ballet, has been an annual event at OMSI. However, the actors are beams of light, not people, and the stage is on the ceiling of the OMSI Planetarium. All of the characters and the complete soundtrack from the ballet are featured in the show.

"It's a different type of entertainment," said Sharon Sipprell, community events coordinator and a former University student. "The show puts a colorful, playful twist on a classic program."

"Holiday Junction" and "Nutcracker" are both free with general admission. The light show alone costs \$2.

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