

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Sunny High 78, Low 45
 Thursday Sunny High 75, Low 47

Students allege discrimination

The removal of some religious news-groups angers some students, who file a grievance/PAGE 10

Gerlach sets tone for volleyball

The freshman setter makes the most of her talents at the University/PAGE 15

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Work on bridge halfway done



Mowat Construction worker Garry Ray of Stayton welds at the foot of the Ferry Street Bridge Friday afternoon.

Amanda Cowan/Emerald

Mostly on schedule, the Ferry Street Bridge Project will increase safety for motorists, city officials say

By Felicity Ayles
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Fear not. The construction is halfway finished, and City of Eugene officials say there is a light at the end of this tunnel — or bridge.

City officials said that although the Ferry Street Bridge project may be inconvenient now, it will make the bridge much more user-friendly in the long run.

The planning began 10 years ago, and construction started in June of 1997. If all goes well, the project will be finished in January 2000, said Tom Larsen, Ferry Street Bridge Project manager.

"We are reasonably close to being on schedule," he said. The Ferry Street Bridge Project involves a spectrum of construction work, from seismic improvements to road resurfacing, city spokeswoman Sue Malone said.

The project involves doing everything needed to meet current seismic standards, and safety and public transport improvements are major objectives for the project, Larsen said.

New merge lanes are being added, turn lanes improved and

the side rails on the bridge strengthened. The project includes the addition of a traffic light at Centennial Boulevard and repaving parts of Club and Coburg roads, he said.

"There's families of improvements," he said.

Construction extends from Oakway Center on Coburg Road to the south side of the Ferry Street Bridge.

By putting all the construction components into one project, the construction will be done in two and a half years from start to finish, Larsen said. If the project were broken up into little projects, it might have taken three or four years, he said.

In November 1994, Eugene citizens defeated a measure that would have widened the Ferry Street Bridge, creating more traffic lanes.

"The community has said they don't want more freeways and four-lane roads," Malone said.

Not increasing the number of lanes on the bridge gives an in-

Turn to CONSTRUCTION, Page 7

Timeline to date

1986 — Lane County adopts a plan recommending a study of the Ferry Street Bridge Corridor

1988 — Congress allocates \$2 million for preliminary studies of the Ferry Street Bridge Corridor

1989 — The Ferry Street Bridge Citizen Advisory Committee studies alternatives for the Ferry Street Bridge Corridor

1991 — Congress authorizes a grant of \$23.7 million for improvements in the corridor

November 1994 — A proposal to expand the bridge to six lanes and make other transportation improvements in the Ferry Street Bridge Corridor is defeated

August 1995 — The Eugene City Council approves the project

First half of 1996 — City staff gets the required approvals for proceeding with the design of the project

April 1996 — Preliminary survey and design work is under way

May 2, 1997 — Department of Transportation awards the contract to Mowat Construction Company

June 1997 — Mowat begins the first phase of the multi-year project.

Evaluation of goals rises for universities

Higher education reform increases accountability for Oregon schools

By Laura Cadiz
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon universities will be evaluated and financially rewarded based on goals such as student employability and retention rates as part of the Oregon University System reform.

The state's seven public universities have to set student satisfaction, returning-student and employment goals, which the University of Oregon may accomplish through smaller class sizes, tougher curriculums and more student-centered groups.

And if a state university reaches these goals, the school and its president will be financially rewarded. But no set money amount is determined yet.

"As a university, we've never articulated this set of goals before," said Frances Dyke, resource management director at the University of Oregon. "But that's not to say that in committees ... people have not had

these goals in mind."

When OUS voted in July to restructure its budget — having tuition dollars follow students instead of going to a statewide pot — it freed up the seven Oregon public universities to compete for students and put the burden on each school to meet enrollment and student-centered goals.

Each school determines its own set of goals to reach OUS's performance measures: strengthening quality of instructional, research and public service programs; expanding access by students of different circum-

OUS

Third in a four-part series on the Oregon University System

Monday: OUS changes its funding system to be more student centered

Tuesday: How the OUS changes will affect other state campuses

TODAY: The OUS changes make universities more accountable

Thursday: The OUS changes are contingent on the legislature passing the system's budget

Turn to OUS, Page 4

EMU renovations get mixed reviews

Some students think the changes are worth the money, but other disagree

By Laura Baker
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Sounds of construction have waned from the ears of the University community, and the EMU is once again filled with students and faculty going about their daily business.

After a year of revamping, the EMU has a new look. Students can now choose from a variety of food vendors, various lounge areas and sip coffee downstairs in The Buzz, the new coffee shop.

Many newcomers to the University don't realize the dramatically different look but still seem to appreciate what the EMU has to offer.

With shrugs of indifference, the responses seem to be about the same. "I like it. It's pretty easy to find your way around," student Melissa Brunner said.

Going into the renovation project, the EMU Board had hoped to accomplish five goals: create contemporary food service, build a recreation center, upgrade utilities, make the EMU easier to navigate and make it a destination point that does not feel "institutional," EMU director Dusty Miller said.

Miller said he believes these goals were achieved, but students are the ones who will ultimately decide.

Students who have been here through the construction are a little more animated than the newcomers about what they see.

"It looks great. It's a lot newer and cleaner,"



"I think it's great. It gives people a place to go on campus so they don't have to go off campus to eat."

Wendi Toyama
 Sophomore



"For the money that was spent, I don't think it was worth it."

Heather Fulton
 Junior



"It just added to the maze."

Tanner Durham
 Biology

Turn to EMU, Page 8