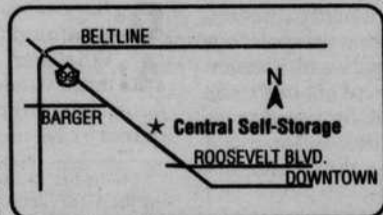


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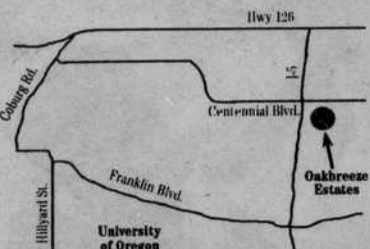


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Solar energy focus of outreach

■ Education Outreach Program coordinators hope to begin touring Eugene elementary schools early next year

By Angela Leidig for the Emerald

The doll house sitting on the counter looked old and tattered. The gray paint on the walls was peeling, and the limbs on the plastic trees looked frayed. The two-story configuration wasn't large enough to house a Barbie.

Although its purpose seems insignificant at first glance, this doll house is actually a model to demonstrate passive heating.

The doll house, along with other solar energy modules, will be used by the Education Outreach Program. The program was created by University students from the Solar Information Center during winter term of 1999.

The program is working on a presentation that they will give to fourth- and fifth-grade students in Eugene schools to teach them about basic energy concepts.

"I think it's a good age because it's early on, but [the students] are still old enough to grasp what is going on," program treasurer William Nachman said.

The program is in its early stages, according to co-director Ben Gates.

The staff would like to begin vis-

iting elementary schools early next year to present to the classes, with help from University students.

The program is accepting volunteers and offering internships to University students who would like to help with program preparation.

"There is a lot of work that needs to be done," Gates said. The positions offered for volunteers and interns are graphic designers, solar energy module constructors, designers for the student information packet and other miscellaneous jobs geared toward the presentation. Students who want to become involved don't need any experience.

"It requires no knowledge of renewable energy, although an interest in it would help," Gates said.

The presentation in its entirety will include a skit, interactive workstations for students and student information packets.

The skit stars Captain Solar and Windy who travel through time, beginning in the age of dinosaurs and ending in an Utopian future.

The object of the skit is to identify energy sources in different eras of time, ultimately leading to

the conclusion that solar energy is the most efficient energy source.

The interactive workstations will allow students to work with and design solar energy modules such as a solar cooker, the doll house that demonstrates passive heating, a solar water panel and other demonstrations.

"We are going to have some gadgets for every station and use our own knowledge in order to teach the students," said Cheryl Jacobs, a volunteer with the project.

The program staff received a grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust Small Grants Program for \$4,900 last April, which is how the program staff is paying for the program materials.

The Solar Information Center, located in 219 Pacific, has a small library for anyone who would like to learn more about solar, renewable and other types of energy.

"The library is open to anyone in the community," event coordinator Stacey Weinkauff said. "There are books and journals that vary from environmental building, community planning and landscape."

Students interested may call the Solar Information Center at 346-3696 or send e-mail to sic@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Trump chooses to not campaign

By Ron Fournier The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York tycoon Donald Trump has decided against running for president, ending a lengthy flirtation with the notion that he could tap his personal fortune to capture the White House as a third-party candidate, The Associated Press learned.

Sources connected with New York's Independence Party movement, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Trump has told associates he will announce Monday that he is not mounting a presidential bid.

After months of speculation about a possible Reform Party campaign, Trump decided recently that the party is too fractured to support a credible presidential candidate, the officials said.

He met over the weekend with advisers to consider a second option, running as an Independence Party candidate, but determined there is not enough time to get on state ballots.

Trump considered that option

out of respect for Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, who had been the Reform Party's highest elected official before leaving the "dysfunctional" party last week to reinvigorate his state's Independence Party.

Ventura and Trump were allies during Reform Party squabbling that culminated last Friday with the governor's departure and the ouster of a Ventura ally as party chairman.

A fractious Reform Party meeting Saturday in Tennessee returned power to allies of party founder Ross Perot, who has not ruled out running for president a third time.

Though he had not formally entered the race, Trump made a handful of campaign trips, hinted broadly for weeks that he would run and issued comprehensive health care and national debt-reduction proposals.

He held a single-digit ranking in most public polls and was not given much of a chance of winning the presidency.

Trump estimates his personal

net worth at \$5 billion. Though independent analysis lead to lower estimates, there is no doubt he was wealthy enough to make inroads toward the Reform Party nomination.

His decision leaves former Republican Pat Buchanan as the front-running candidate for the Reform Party's nomination. Buchanan left the GOP after two failed presidential bids, eyeing the nearly \$13 million in federal money that will be awarded Reform's nominee.

Many Perot allies encouraged Buchanan to bolt the GOP and join the Reform Party, in part because they hoped the conservative firebrand could help defy Ventura's wing of the party. With Ventura out of the way, Perot's allies are now speculating that the wealthy Texas businessman could seek the nomination himself.

Steve Forbes last week became the seventh GOP candidate to pull out of the race. Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley are the sole Democratic candidates.

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