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Public or private?



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Don and Dorothy Nelson shuffle off the Amtrak Coast Starlight after a trip to Seattle. Dorothy Nelson wishes that those wanting to break Amtrak into private regional rail lines would 'just stuff it.'

At a fork in the rail

Amtrak may be restructured to allow private companies and state governments to service routes

By Marty Toohy
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Amtrak Reform Council will propose today to restructure Amtrak into three smaller companies, which might eventually result in Oregon and Washington states creating a more efficient Northwest railway system.

However, the 137,000 rail passengers leaving Eugene yearly — many of whom are University students choos-

ing a cheap method to travel along the west coast — will not see any changes until the bill passes through the U.S. House and the Senate.

The restructuring proposal, which the reform council will present to Congress today, would essentially break the company into three entities: A government-run corporation to continue operating railways between Washington, D.C., and Boston; a second train-operating agency to manage Amtrak's other railways; and a federal oversight committee to monitor all U.S. railways.

"I think people have finally realized

the emperor has no clothes, and Amtrak cannot provide the kind of service people want," said Dave Chapman, a Seattle-based member of the Amtrak Reform Council, which oversees the company's budget.

Congress formed the Amtrak Reform Council to find a way to make the company financially self-sufficient. Amtrak currently holds a government-granted national monopoly on intercity rail service, and the proposal comes on the heels of the company's announcement that it lost \$1.1 billion last year.

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ASUO ticket aims to improve student perks

John Ely and Hayes Hurwitz want later library hours, easier sports ticketing and telecasts in Mac Court

By Danielle Gillespie
Oregon Daily Emerald

John Ely, an undeclared junior, is running for ASUO president. Hayes Hurwitz, a sophomore economics major, is running for vice president.

Q: There are, at last count, 10 tickets running for ASUO Executive this year, which is more than past years. What do you think will set yourselves apart from the other candidates?

A: I think that everybody is going to be saying a lot of the same things and coming out with a lot of the same proposals. I think with any political race, you have to go with the candidate who wants it the most and who is willing to work the hardest to get it. I definitely think that I have already put in a lot of time on this campaign.

Q: What is your platform?

A: It's based around taking the existing system and expanding it, but not any radical changes. I am pushing for more convenient use of all school facilities. I would like to see later hours for the library. I also want tighter control over student incidental fees. I just want a committee or a re-

view board as another level of review for the budgets. I basically see the ASUO as a government set up to do nothing but handle these fees. We need to set up another check and balance to get the full extent of our political power. I just think the incidental fees are where the majority of our problems are coming from. I don't even like calling them student incidental fees; it is basically just a tax. I think students need to understand that they are being taxed and that is what they are voting on here, how they want their tax dollars to be spent.

Q: What will you advocate for on the state level for students, and how will you carry out your plans?

A: I plan to act as a gateway. I am not necessarily advocating that I am going to go fight for anything at the state level. Basically, what I mean by gateway is that if I feel that someone needs something done or has an issue that someone feels strongly about, and they don't think they can get it done on campus or think their voice is being heard on campus, I will go out and find them someone to talk to.



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HURWITZ

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Eugene vetoes plans to build Sprint tower

Planners cite the proposed tower's proximity to graduate student housing in denying the application

By Brook Reinhard
Oregon Daily Emerald

City planners have denied Sprint PCS' application to build a 120-foot cell phone tower near campus at 1400 Villard Ave.

The company has 12 days to appeal, and spokesman Ron Meckler said the company hasn't decided whether to fight the decision or submit a new application.

Planners nixed the proposal for three reasons: conflicts with an existing tower, proximity to University graduate housing and a lack of supporting documents proving that all other sites in the campus area are unusable.

Eugene senior planner Teresa Bishow denied Sprint's application after receiving more than 190 public comments and notified local residents Wednesday.

Lead planner Kent Kulby said Sprint had other options available.

"They could have found a better location on the site," Kulby said, adding that the proposed tower was 15 feet from the property where graduate students live.

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'Quick Fix' troupe sells out ballroom

The consciousness-raising group of actors depicted alcohol, drug, romance, e-mail and food addictions

By Marcus Hathcock
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Quick Fix, a reality-based theater group out of New York University, performed Wednesday night to a sold-out house of 540 in the first of two shows in the EMU Ballroom.

The troupe's cast members have been among the student population since Sunday, and they have spent the week living with and learning about University students and their views on addiction. Over the past few days, the cast interviewed students and faculty and led 14 different workshops around campus, EMU marketing coordinator Lee LaTour said.

All of this interaction with the University community was integrated into their ballroom performance.

The purpose of the performance and the week on campus is to provoke discussion about all addictive behaviors, said Stephen Wangh, the show's director.

"The Quick Fix aims to stimulate us to ... rethink the assumptions we make about who is running our lives," Wangh said.

The show used many different methods to address addiction: monologues, group scenes, singing and instruments "kept the audience interested," said senior Nicole Barrett, who attended the performance.

"You don't just have 10 people standing there telling their stories like an (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting," Barrett said.

Different forms of addiction, such as alcoholism and drug abuse, were illustrated in The Quick Fix, but the show also addressed romance, e-mail and eating as prominent daily addictions.

"It was good to see a focus on other issues of addiction — not just the stereotypical abuse," junior Wayne Bund said.

Almost all of the dialogue was taken from real-life interviews conducted by the troupe. These interviews told the stories of many individuals who have dealt with addiction,

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ASUO ELECTIONS

This is the second in a 10-part series of questions and answer sessions with ASUO Executive candidates.