

Safeway 'remodel' moves right along

■ The construction has caused inconvenience for customers of Safeway, but competitors have reaped the benefits

By Brook Reinhard
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's closest Safeway Food and Drug has been reduced to rubble in recent weeks. But the campus grocery store on East 18th Avenue is coming back bigger and better August 12 after remodeling estimated to cost \$2 million.

The store closed its doors March 31, and the demolition began a few days later. Whole chunks of the building fell victim to the bulldozer, and within a week, Safeway was flattened.

The foundation of the new building is now beginning to take shape. Hard hat-clad workers march around the site, pouring concrete and laying pipes. There's very little evidence that the old Safeway even existed. Only one wall, shared with the adjacent Hirons Drug Store, remains of the old store.

"It's considered a remodel because we left an existing wall standing," said Project Engineer Eric Kneeland, speaking from the temporary office trailer at the site. "Everything was just outdated."

According to Kneeland, the new building will be 34,497 square feet, larger than the original building, and provide new services including a pharmacy, an improvement Hirons isn't too pleased with.

Hirons, located on the corner of



The Safeway Food and Drug located on 18th Avenue between Pearl and Oak streets is now a pile of rubble and dirt located on 18th Avenue between Pearl and Oak streets. The market, a popular source of groceries for students, will reappear August 12.

East 18th Avenue and Pearl Street for almost 70 years, operates its own pharmacy.

"It will be hard, but I think we'll pull through," Hirons clerk Mike Moresi said.

The drug store has placed signs along the fence of the construction site trying to let customers know it's still open, even if Safeway isn't.

"Business has picked up some,"

Moresi said, adding that long-time customers are still navigating around the construction fences to find the entrance to the store.

PC Market of Choice, on the other hand, couldn't be happier with Safeway's remodel. The chain's Franklin Boulevard location, which was also remodeled a year and a half ago, is several blocks east of student residence

halls. Assistant Manager Greg Kruse said they've seen a "pretty substantial" increase in customers who formerly went to Safeway for groceries.

"A lot of the new customers will stay," Kruse said. "They really like our store."

E-mail reporter Brook Reinhard at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

News brief

State board works on OSU budget shortfall

The State Board of Higher Education implemented a plan on Friday to ensure Oregon State University recovers from an athletic budget deficit without borrowing heavily from the school's education funds, student board member Tim Young said.

The plan will toughen checks

and balances on OSU's methods for erasing the remainder of the long-standing deficit by requiring OSU officials to make "periodic" reports to the board, Young said. The plan also establishes target dates for reducing the debt incrementally.

A report by Oregon University System auditors revealed that as of December 2001, the OSU Department of Athletics had borrowed \$8 million from the school's general

fund while increasing spending. The general fund covers operating and education expenses. OSU announced a \$19 million general fund shortfall in October.

In other business Friday, the board's Budget and Finance Committee approved an \$8.4 million plan to build a residence hall that will house 225 students at the main branch of the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath

Falls. The project also calls for a \$2 million renovation of OIT's current residence hall.

Erin Watari, student member of the board, said the results of an OUS diversity report indicated a slight increase in the number of students of color attending OUS schools since 1996. The report was presented to the board's Strategic Planning Committee.

—Eric Martin

Ashcroft's career thrives, despite controversies

By Chris Mondics
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON (KRT) — For a time after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, it seemed possible to forget the uncompromising conservative politics and sharp elbows that helped launch Attorney General John Ashcroft's career.

More than most other Bush administration officials, Ashcroft has become the public face of the government's war on terror, appearing often before television cameras to announce the latest arrest or to promote the newest anti-terror initiative. A year after the bruising confirmation hearings in which Senate liberals sought to cast him as a hard-right ideologue, his popularity has soared.

But two high-profile legal setbacks for the Department of Justice last week thrust Ashcroft's social agenda back in the public spotlight.

The rulings struck down part of a federal law banning simulated child pornography and rejected his department's challenge to an Oregon statute legalizing assisted suicide.

In the Oregon case, Ashcroft tried to use a decades-old narcotics law, initially intended to curb the market in illicit drugs, to hamper physicians who sought to help terminally ill patients take their own lives. In the virtual child pornography case, the Justice Department argued before the Supreme Court defending a 1996 law that made it illegal

to use simulated images of children in pornographic films, or even to use adult actors who simply appeared underage.

The decisions served as a reminder that, despite the national near-consensus behind Ashcroft's tactics against suspected terrorists, the nation's underlying divisions on social policies remain as deep as ever.

"He is riding the crest of a wave of popularity ... fighting the war on terror," said Richard Semiatin, assistant professor of government at American University. But, Semiatin added, "that doesn't mean that the (conservative) policies that are personally important to him, that go under the radar screen," are any less controversial with some members of the public.

Ashcroft had little visibility on law enforcement issues before Sept. 11.

His signature issues were abortion, support for gun-owner rights, efforts to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, and limits on welfare payments.

An evangelical Christian and former touring gospel singer, Ashcroft early in his term as attorney general organized daily prayer sessions for his staff.

In the Senate, Ashcroft was often on the margins, even during the years after the 1994 elections when GOP conservatives dominated, because he insisted on pushing deeply conservative issues that did not have broad public support. That tactic galvanized opponents

on the left. Pragmatic conservatives like Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., viewed those initiatives as quixotic quests that were more trouble than they were worth.

His credentials as a social conservative were held in such high esteem by party conservatives that he ran a credible campaign for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, although he was never able to broaden his appeal beyond that base and dropped out of the race early on.

His hard-nosed tactics have caused him "some trouble.... He can be rather combative and take a very hard line and he has made some enemies," said Mark Rozell, a professor of politics at Catholic University.

Despite those problems, Ashcroft's career at Justice has taken off. He enjoys considerable support at the White House, in part because his public approval ratings are so high. There is some talk that he might replace Vice President Cheney as President Bush's running mate in 2004 if Cheney's health problems keep him from running.

"In a way, the tragedy of 9/11 has propelled Ashcroft into a position of greater power and leverage than one ever would have suspected; he has really cast himself as the guardian of the homeland," said Alan Lichtmann, a history professor at American University.

Yet the court cases that the department lost last week may provide more of a window on Ashcroft than his war on terror.

Today's crossword solution

S	T	A	B	A	W	E	D	P	R	O	O	F		
I	A	G	O	D	A	T	A	R	E	C	U	R		
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B	I	T	T	Y	E	X	C	U	S	E				
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