

Saferide to host fundraiser music event

Saferide will host 'Come Play With Us' tonight to raise funds; the program shares a budget with Nightride

Lindsay Sauvé
Family/Health/Education Reporter

Project Saferide's mission is in its name. Women stuck somewhere at night without transportation have relied on the service for a safe ride home since 1985. But right now, the free service is financially strapped.

Saferide is hosting "Come Play With Us" tonight in the EMU Fir

Room from 8 p.m. to midnight. The benefit will feature hip-hop performances by female artists from the Portland area. There is no cover charge, but Saferide hopes to receive enough through donations to fill the hole in its budget.

"The campus community is abuzz about 'Come Play with Us,'" said Casey Rohter, the program's co-director and event coordinator. "We've devoted a lot of time and energy to making this work."

Project Coordinator Melissa Winkler said Saferide has been experiencing budget problems because it's

had to share the budget with Nightride, a service that offers rides to both men and women. Recent vehicle repairs have also left a substantial need for funds.

Winkler said the program is also looking to invest in battery cell packs to increase safety for stranded drivers. The cell packs will be used to jump-start vehicles, a safer option than having to hunt for help.

"I think it's one of the most important programs on campus because it gives women a sense of unity in protecting one another," Winkler said. "It's all about women

helping women."

Kaitlin Kerwin has been volunteering as a driver for Saferide since fall of 2002. She and other volunteers are expected to commit one night a week and one weekend night per month. The service is most popular after 9 p.m. on weekdays, but weekends are very busy.

"(Saferide) helps to equalize men's and women's rights," Kerwin said. "Men who go out at night don't usually have to worry about sexual assault. Now women have the ability to go out freely without having to take a chance."

Department of Public Safety Associate Director Tom Hicks said officers will often escort callers who need to get from one area of the campus to another, but for most students who need a ride to an off-campus location, DPS will refer them to Saferide.

According to Rohter, Saferide is one of the only all-women sexual assault prevention shuttles in the nation and provides more than 9,000 rides per year to female students.

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailymerald.com.

EMU

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students and faculty to evaluate and modify the team's original mission statement. The survey received 511 student and 897 total responses and indicated broad support for the team's initial vision. They used the survey results and trips to other universities, such as University of Colorado, Colorado State, University of Arizona and Arizona State, to produce a finalized mission statement.

The team then focused on determining what the University and community needed. The group conducted another Internet survey, a week of meetings with University focus groups and multiple Eugene town hall meetings. It then prioritized 10 major goals for the EMU redesign, such as creating a single organizing or thematic element throughout the building, establishing four clear and visible main entrances and creating a floor plan flexible enough to accommodate all University and community groups.

Finally, the team collected information from more than 20 one-on-one interviews and then compiled the two years' worth of feedback into a final plan.

The plan highlights conceptual design principles from the renovation of the mezzanine level to the complete reconstruction of the East Wing and outlines a 48-month, four-phase construction plan to make the recommendations a reality.

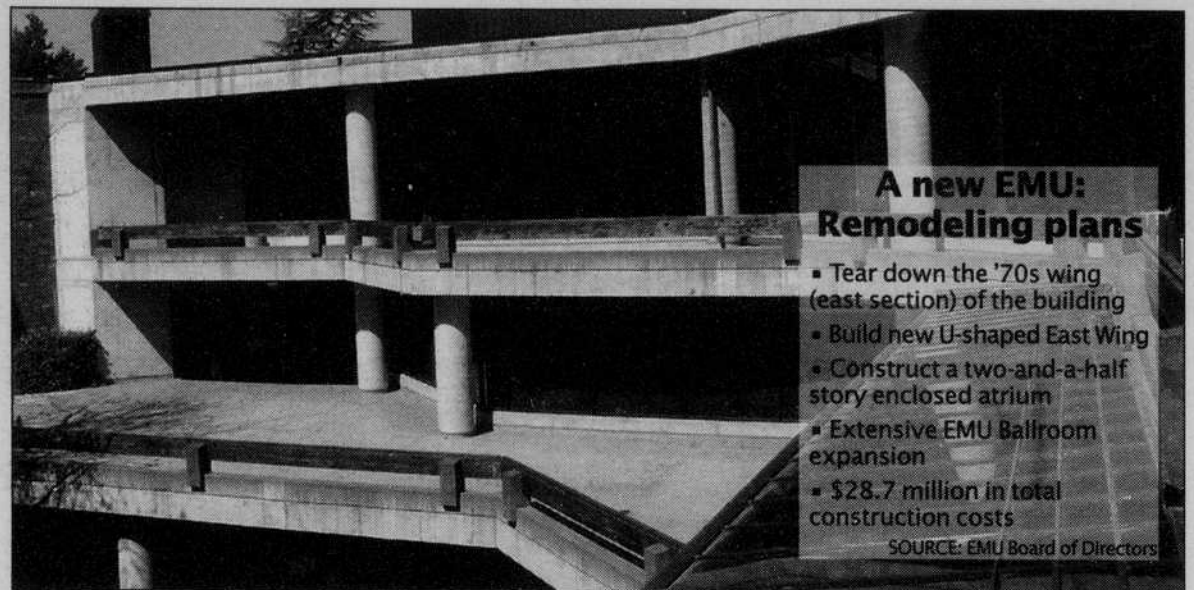
"I am really pleased at how this has turned out. I think this sets us up really well for the future," EMU Board Chairwoman and Core Team member Christa Shively said.

The EMU Master Plan recommends several major alterations to the building. The most visible changes would be rendered to the section of the building designed in the early 1970s that includes the winding ramp and skylight areas. This portion, called the East Wing, will be torn down and replaced with a larger U-shaped structure during the final two construction phases. The new area will also be partially extended over the east side lawn.

"There were some people opposed to it," Miller said, referring to the decision to rebuild the East Wing. "It's not that I don't appreciate the aesthetics of (the current structure). I am looking at function."

The plan seeks to improve space efficiency by up to 10 percent. In addition to the new East Wing, much of the new space will come from an expansion to the existing ballroom. The new ballroom will extend out above the southeast parking lot to the Straub Quad. This new ballroom could be partitioned off to form up to three smaller meeting rooms and would also include a new entrance and ticketing area.

The placement of facilities and an overall layout redesign are also recommended in the plan. In the new EMU, all meeting and conference rooms would be located on the sec-



A new EMU: Remodeling plans

- Tear down the '70s wing (east section) of the building
- Build new U-shaped East Wing
- Construct a two-and-a-half story enclosed atrium
- Extensive EMU Ballroom expansion
- \$28.7 million in total construction costs

SOURCE: EMU Board of Directors

Brook Reinhard Emerald

The EMU remodel highlights include the renovation of the mezzanine level and the complete reconstruction of the East Wing.

ond floor, with the third floor dedicated to administrative offices. Plans for the ground floor include the potential for 24-hour access, including an all-hours computer lab, extension of The Break hours, and around-the-clock access to Craft Center resources.

While the plan calls for the elimination of the striking 70s section of the building, the new East Wing will not be without a visual landmark. In the interests of maintaining the EMU's character and aesthetic appeal, the Master Plan calls for the creation of a two-and-a-half story atrium intended to serve as a hub of

student activity in the building.

"The indoor atrium will be a crossroads," Miller said. "It's going to be big, it's going to be wide, it's going to be bold."

The overall redesign is projected to increase the square footage of the EMU by 50,000 square feet, or nearly 20 percent. With the addition of staff salary costs and other factors, the completed project could run a tab of \$42 million.

The plan isn't ready yet. If the designs are approved at the next EMU Board meeting, there will still be chances for more public input. Even

then, the EMU will have to solicit bids on the project before any work actually starts.

"Construction probably won't begin until 2006 at the earliest," Shively said.

Those interested in learning more about the Master Plan's recommendations are invited to attend an open house next week in Century Room F of the EMU from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday and 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Andrew Shipley is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



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