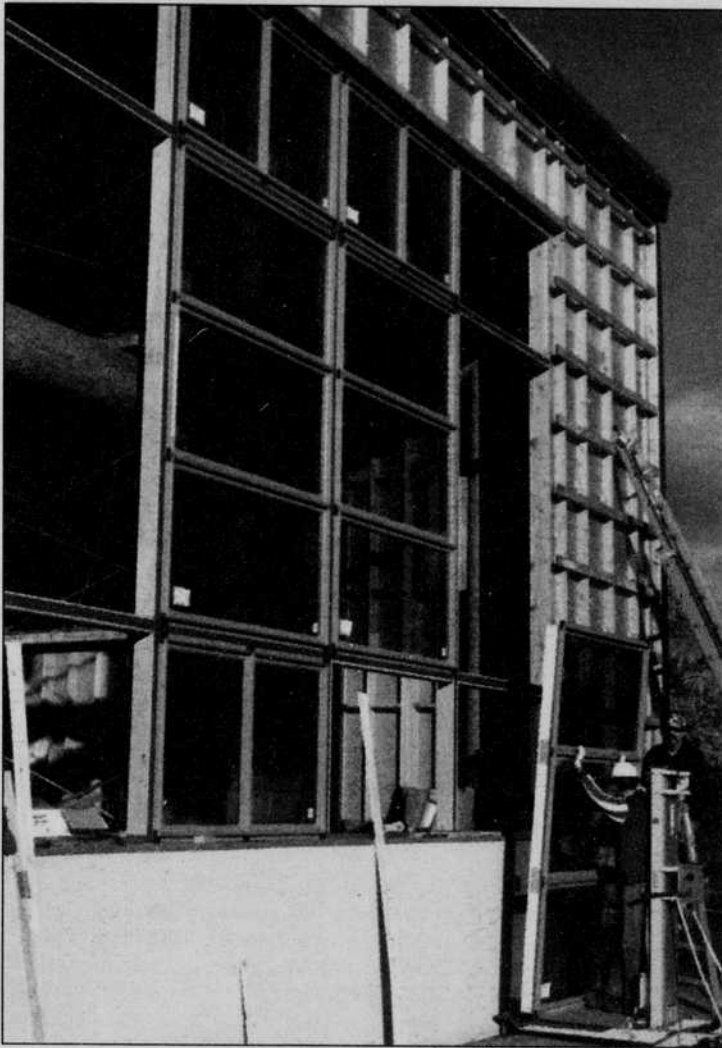


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NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Construction on the Many Nations Longhouse, behind the Knight Law Center, is set to be completed on Dec. 5. The grand opening will be Jan. 11.

Longhouse to bring 'Many Nations' together

After a 20-year wait, construction on the Many Nations Longhouse will be completed in December

BY CANELA WOOD
NEWS REPORTER

It's been a decade in the making, but the University is just a month away from having a new and improved Many Nations Longhouse. The building, which is four times larger than its predecessor and is located behind the Knight Law Center, is a place for students and community members to socialize and work on American Indian crafts, including bead work and drum making.

"It's a place where different Native American student groups have held regular meetings, but it can be reserved and used by all non-tribe groups as well," Gordon Bettles, the steward for the Many Nations Longhouse, said.

Construction began on the building in March and is set to be completed by Dec. 5.

The previous longhouse had been donated to the American Indian students in the 1970s, accord-

ing to Bettles. The building was a World War II army barracks.

"The old longhouse windows were drafty, it was hard to warm in the winter and it was losing practicability," Bettles said. "President Myles Brand made a commitment to rebuild the longhouse."

Bettles said that when University President Dave Frohnmayer took over he followed through with the commitment, which began fundraising 11 years ago.

It was under Frohnmayer's Native American Initiative that the University began working with nine American Indian tribes in Oregon and developed a committee to raise funds, according to Bettles.

Executive Assistant President Dave Hubin said fundraising was done by groups of American Indians and University leaders.

"The process of fundraising

LONGHOUSE, page 5

Measure 36 protesters march to courthouse

Community members trek from the LGBTQA office to apply for marriage licenses

BY MORIAH BALINGIT
NEWS REPORTER

Community members and University students gathered at the Lane County Courthouse on Friday to fill out marriage licenses for same-sex couples in protest of the passage of Measure 36. The recently voter-approved constitutional amendment defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Many of the protesters were members and supporters of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Alliance. The LGBTQA tried to take a political stand on Measure 36, but could not because University rules prohibit incidental-fee-funded student groups from taking stances on political issues.

LGBTQA Co-director Crystal Cathcart, who participated in the protest, emphasized several times that although the group of protesters was largely composed of University students, many who were LGBTQA members, and the march began at the group's EMU office, she said Queer Sitters, a community activist group, officially sponsored the protest.

The mood in the LGBTQA office appeared light as University students assembled to march to the courthouse. Students joked and laughed as one student went down on one knee and delivered a fake marriage proposal. But while the mood was light, the issue is far from laughable for the protesters.

"I want to get married someday," senior Ryan Minor, who self-identifies as gay, said. "Measure 36) was kind of a slap in the face."

The march took several detours along the way, as participants debated the exact location of the courthouse, which is on 125 E. 8th Ave. The geographical setbacks didn't put a damper on protest morale, as students sang, yelled and chanted along the way.

"One, two, three, four, don't let the city shut the door!" protesters yelled.

As the participants arrived at the courthouse, they faced an entirely new predicament.

"Do you want to be the bride or the groom?" students asked each other. The forms are designed exclusively for heterosexual couples, and in the end, the group decided to cross out "bride" and "groom" and put sex-appropriate terms.

In the end, freshmen Amanda Koplin, who self-identifies as straight, and her pseudo-fiancee, University student Alec Zimmerman, faced off with Supervisor of Deeds and Records Marle Hoehne as she tried to turn in her application.

Koplin spun an interesting, but untrue, story about having a baby with Zimmerman and being in love with her.

"We feel that we should be able to have the same rights as other people," she pleaded to Hoehne. "We don't understand why you're helping them set us apart."

Hoehne said his first duty is to follow the law.

"I can't (process your application)," he said to Koplin. "Our mandate is to follow state law."

MARRIAGE LICENSES, page 5

IN BRIEF

State Board of Higher Education puzzles over enrollment decline

Enrollment increased 0.6 percent this year across the Oregon University System, indicating slowing growth for the second year in a row, according to an OUS press release. The State Board of Higher Education met in Beaverton on Thursday and Friday to discuss enrollment numbers and educational costs at Oregon's seven public universities, among other things.

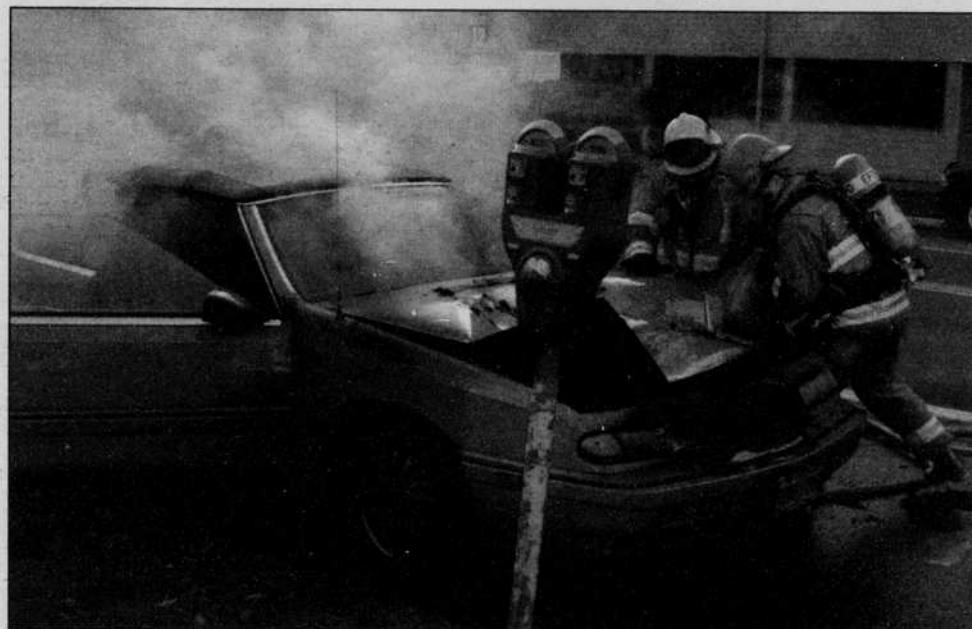
Based on fourth-week enrollment numbers from the schools, there are now 80,066 students in the system compared to 79,558 in 2003, Director of OUS Institutional Research Bob Kieran said in the release. The increase is lower compared to gains seen between 1999 and 2002 — while enrollment increased by 6.3 percent and 5.7 percent in 2001 and 2002, respectively, campuses saw only a 1.9 percent increase in 2003.

The University reported an enrollment of 20,339 students in the fourth week of fall term, a 1.5 percent increase. While there were small increases in undergraduate, doctoral and professional students at the universities, there was a decrease in students enrolling for masters degrees. Also, the University's international-student population decreased from 1,273 last year to 1,170 this fall, according to the Office of International Programs.

Kieran said reasons behind the inhibited growth are still under review. In the last two years, tuition increased an average of 21 percent across the university system, according to the release. And while campuses could depend on the state to cover 51 percent of educational costs in the 1999-2001 biennium, state support has dropped to just 36 percent for the 2003-2005 biennium, putting a greater burden on students.

— Ayisha Yahya

VEHICLE CATCHES FIRE ON CAMPUS, TOTALS CAR



COURTESY

A University employee's vehicle caught fire outside the Knight Law Center around 3 p.m. Friday, totaling one car and causing minor damage to another vehicle, but inflicting no injuries. The fire was likely the result of a ruptured fuel line, according to the Eugene Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

University International Programs employee Eileen Cole had just wrapped up her workday and started her car to head home when she paused to plan the remainder of her day, she said. She sat in the car, parked on Agate Street, with the engine running for two minutes or less when she began to smell gas, she said.

"I opened the door to get out and see what was going on, and suddenly I heard a pop and felt a flash of heat on my feet," Cole said.

She turned off the vehicle to stop the flow of gas, then ran to safety when she saw flames spitting from beneath her car, she said.

Firefighters spent about 20 minutes hosing down flames, prying open the hood, smashing

the windshield and chopping through the inner compartment of Cole's 1993 Chrysler LeBaron to contain the majority of the fire. A few stubborn smoldering spots took longer to control, but were mostly contained within the hour.

Colleen Jones, a nurse practitioner at the University Health Center, came upon the fire while taking a walk. Her Subaru Forrester was parked behind Cole's vehicle. She said her only reaction at that moment was "surprise," and her car was not badly damaged. The fire left a long black line on the rear bumper.

Ernie Connelly, a Eugene fire captain at a station about a block away, said the fire was fueled by gas pumping through a ruptured line, which could have resulted from normal wear and tear or from product defects. Such fires are fairly common, he said, but the risk of explosion is low.

"These fires can cause several explosions, in the tires or in the shock absorbers," Connelly said, "but nothing like the Hollywood stuff."

— Kara Hansen