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Arena plan still suffers from lack of funding

The \$160 million necessary for construction will be fundraised privately, University officials say

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

When the University first pitched its plans for a new basketball arena three years ago, officials predicted an opening date of fall 2006. The date was pushed back two years because of funding problems, and University officials are hopeful the fall 2008 date won't be pushed back any further. But recent statements from officials indicate they have resigned themselves to the possibility.

The reason? Funding problems.

"The day will come when we build an arena; we need to do that. The question is right now, 'When and how expensive of a project is it going to be?'" University Vice President for Administration Dan Williams said.

The \$160 million that University officials say they will need to construct the arena will still be raised privately, but Williams said the University has been cautious about the number of donors being contacted because there are other projects on the fundraising list that are more important.

"We wanted to be sure that the arena wouldn't be built at the expense of the University's higher priorities," Williams said.

Williams said any debt incurred from the basketball arena's design and construction will be the responsibility of National Championship Properties, a University of Oregon Foundation subsidiary, in order to mitigate financial problems the Athletics Department could face if met with considerable amounts of debt.

National Championship Properties has been part of the arena plan since the beginning but is now assuming more responsibility for the arena's operation, Williams said.

"They will run the arena. They will operate the arena. The University will be a tenant," Williams said. "We're shifting the risk to NCP from the athletic department and the University."

University Athletic Director Bill Moos wrote to all Athletics Department donors and ticket

FUNDING, page 7A

City yet to charge UO receiver

Police cited Demetrius Williams nine months ago for allegedly jamming UO parking meters

BY JARED PABEN
NEWS EDITOR

Nearly nine months after Demetrius Williams, star receiver for the University football team, was arrested and cited for what police say were five instances of jamming parking meters so he could park for free, the city prosecutor's office still hasn't formally charged him.

Williams, 22, was cited for five counts of criminal mischief 3 in early August 2004 for allegedly sticking pennies and washers covered in a "gooey substance" in parking meters, jamming them so they would read "out of order," according to a Eugene Police Department report.



DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS
WIDE RECEIVER

soon, she said.

The city prosecutor's office would not discuss the case with the Emerald because it is still open.

Williams, who said he didn't tamper with the meters, said it's "kind of petty" if the city prosecutor's office is planning on filing charges against him.

"They tried to say I was plugging meters or something, I guess," Williams said. "I

guess they threw it out, I don't know." EPD spokeswoman Kerry Delf said Williams' attorney and a city prosecutor, who is currently on vacation, have been negotiating a plea bargain that will likely include charges of criminal mischief. Those charges will probably be coming

guess they threw it out, I don't know."

Williams said he "wasn't trying to do anything or stiff anybody or anything like that. I was just parking my car and going."

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said he was aware of the arrest at the time and had a conversation with Williams, but he didn't remember details of the conversation. Bellotti said he "thought the charges were dismissed because they weren't filed."

"If and when anything like that occurs, I would take appropriate steps based on our team rules," Bellotti said.

EPD officer Randy Ellis, who arrested and cited Williams, said he couldn't discuss details of the case because no formal charges have been filed. Ellis did say, however, that suspects often have to appear in court two weeks after they are cited. If they plead "not guilty," they have about a month before a trial is held, when the arresting officer receives

WILLIAMS, page 12A

AROUND THE BEND



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon freshman distance runner Galen Rupp runs in the middle of the pack during his highly anticipated Oregon debut Saturday at the Oregon Invitational. The Portland native holds national high school records in the 2,000-, 3,000- and 5,000-meters.

For the complete story, see page 13A

Community breaks matzah at Seder

Oregon Hillel marked the start of Passover, which honors the Hebrews' Exodus from slavery in Egypt

BY JON ITKIN
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

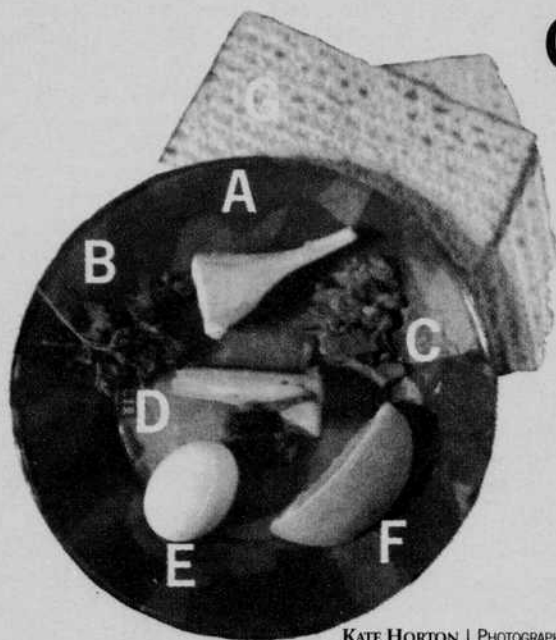
Saturday night marked the first night of Passover, an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the ancient Hebrews' escape from slavery in Egypt. Students and community members observed the holiday together with a Seder, the ceremonial meal specific to the holiday, in the Gerlinger Lounge.

Oregon Hillel, a Jewish organization on campus, sponsored the festivities.

The story of Passover states that the Hebrews didn't have time to let their bread rise as they rushed to escape the Egyptian army. Today, Jews eat the flat, dry, cracker-like matzah in place of all other grains for eight days to pay respect to their ancestors.

Though Passover commemorates a painful aspect of Jewish history, it is a celebration of togetherness. A joyful feeling pervaded through the banquet hall as participants chanted prayers in Hebrew and English, sang songs, drank wine and ate holiday foods.

PASSOVER, page 3A



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

SYMBOLS OF THE SEDER PLATE

- A) "Maror" (bitter herbs): Bitter Herbs usually horseradish, symbolize the bitterness of Egyptian slavery.
- B) "Karpas" (vegetable): The vegetable, usually parsley, is dipped into salt water during the Seder. The salty water represents the tears shed during Egyptian slavery.
- C) "Charoset" (apple, nut, spice and wine mixture): A variable recipe of apple, nuts and spices ground together and mixed with wine is symbolic of the mortar used by Hebrew slaves to build Egyptian structures.
- D) "Zeroa" (shankbone): The charred Shankbone is symbolic of the lamb offered in biblical times as a Passover sacrifice.
- E) "Beitzah" (egg): The roasted egg has many symbolic meanings. Primarily, it replaces the biblical-era temple sacrifice. The egg is also a traditional symbol of spring and rebirth — the season in which Passover is celebrated.
- F) Orange: This more modern tradition stems from an unknown man's response to a question regarding the emerging equality of women in Jewish life. His supposed response was, "A woman belongs on the bimah (pulpit) as much as an orange belongs on the Seder plate." Today, many choose to include the orange as a sign of the importance of women as leaders in Judaism.
- G) Matzah (unleavened bread): The flat unleavened bread eaten during Passover symbolizes the unrisen loaves of bread the Hebrews, freed from slavery, hastily packed as they fled Egypt.