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Basketball arena plans hit the design table

Two architecture firms will design the sports arena, but because of funding shortages, building plans have yet to be developed

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
NEWS EDITOR

The University is putting its stalled basketball arena project back in motion after raising more than \$1 million during the summer to pay for schematic designs.

The move, coupled with the University's purchase of the Williams' Bakery property and the University of Oregon Foundation's purchase of the vacant Joe Romania car lot, shows potential donors that the University is still making progress on the arena project, University Athletic Director Bill Moos said on Monday.

The Williams' Bakery property is the selected site for the arena, and University officials say the Romania property could serve as a parking lot.

"When you're asking and cultivating people for gifts of sizable amounts it's important that they understand that we have a great deal of skin in the game, and I think we're showing that," Moos said.

The project was put on hold in the spring because of funding shortfalls.

Donors gave more than \$1.3 million over the summer to the project — money that Moos said was used as a payment to the architecture

firms Ellerbe Becket and Thompson, Vaivoda and Associates Architects, Inc. to continue the design process.

"The best way, in our opinion, to continue the project along was to raise the money right now — which we've done — to keep the design phase going," Moos said.

Entering the schematic design phase does not mean arena construction will soon follow because a significant amount of money still needs to be raised, Vice President for University Advancement Allan Price said.

"I think a lot of people think we know we're doing an arena and we're just being cautious, but that's not the case," Price said. "This decision to go forward with the design is not a decision to go forward with the arena."

Moos estimates the design phase will take

about four or five months. Actual design has not begun; the firms are discussing the technicalities of the arena with athletic department representatives, Moos said.

"We need to get back at the table and put our game plan together," Moos said. "That should happen in the next week or so."

The Williams' Bakery property will not be ready for University use until 2007, Moos said, making 2009 a likely opening date.

"A rule of thumb is a year to design and two years to construct," Moos said. "It has the potential to be a very, very large project."

The University has estimated the cost of building the arena to be as much as a \$180 million. All the money will have to be privately raised or taken in the form of bank bonds

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Campus coalitions celebrate National Coming Out Day

Students shared stories, food and a faux closet to promote LGBTQ awareness

BY KATY GAGNON
NEWS REPORTER

Angela Messerli, a senior psychology and women's studies major, told some friends during her freshman year of college that she was bisexual. She told her family last year.

On Tuesday afternoon, she came out of the closet again. This time, friends joined Messerli, and the "closet" was a brightly painted doorway in the EMU Amphitheater decorated with the words: "Come out, speak out, be proud."

Messerli, a co-director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance, was one of several students who walked through the "coming out closet" during a celebration of National Coming Out Day in the EMU Amphitheater Tuesday.

The celebration featured booths with information about coming out, music, free popcorn and an open mic that invited people to share their stories about coming out.

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Ben Storey and Angela Messerli celebrate National Coming Out Day in the EMU Amphitheater Tuesday afternoon.
NICOLE BARKER
SENIOR
PHOTOGRAPHER

OUS amends sexual harassment policy

The Oregon University System has defined and approved new guidelines regarding romantic student-faculty relationships

BY KELLY BROWN
NEWS REPORTER

The State Higher Board of Education has approved new guidelines regarding sexual harassment and consensual relationships between students and professors.

The new policy, voted in on Sept. 9, requires campuses within the Oregon University System to set clear definitions of sexual harassment and to establish campus educational programs on the subject. The policy also mandates that resources be available to those who feel they've been victimized, as well as requiring an assessment of the "campus climate" every four years to determine if students and staff are satisfied with the policies.

It also governs relationships between campus employees and students with what OUS Director of Communications Diane Saunders

called a "power differential." Take, for example, a graduate student dating a faculty member who supervises his or her research. Under the new regulation, the staff member must report this relationship to a supervisor, and either the student or faculty member would be reassigned so they would not be working together. The changes must be in place by September 2006.

The statute condemns these relationships but concedes that the state has no control over consensual adult relationships. Interaction between students younger than 18 and professors is still illegal.

Following two high-profile sexual harassment cases at Western Oregon University, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and the board decided that although campuses had individual policies, a statewide plan was necessary.

A review showed that campuses were doing a good job dealing with harassment complaints, Saunders said, but there was a need for better communication.

"The students and faculty and staff weren't sure where to go to report issues, as there weren't clear reporting procedures," Saunders said.

"They have good systems in place, but they need to do a better job of getting the word out."

Currently, campus members may report harassment to the Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity, but there is also help available through the Counseling Center.

However, many students who spoke with the Emerald said that they weren't sure what they would do if they felt they were victims of sexual harassment.

"I have no idea where I'd go," said Jill Kipisz, an English major.

Others said the campus had adequate support in place to deal with the issue. Greg

HARASSMENT, page 4

Eco-friendly EMU wins award for wind power

Last year's initiative to power the EMU using wind generated praise and national recognition

BY EVA SYLWESTER
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The University has been selected to receive a National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Recognition award for its successful initiative to power the EMU on wind energy.

In the April 2005 ASUO primary election, students voted 1,150 to 277 on a ballot initiative in favor of paying up to \$2 per year per student for sustainability projects. As a result, the EMU became wind-powered on Earth Day.

As a former member of the Sustainability Committee, a sub-committee of the EMU

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