

Married housing site picked by committee

By STEVE ANDRESEN
Of the Emerald

Married students may live in mobile homes along the Willamette River in the near future.

A feasibility study of such a project will be recommended to the Campus Planning Committee by the building use and site selection subcommittee. In a Friday meeting, the subcommittee concluded the western part of the former Eugene Sand and Gravel Company property was the best site for the University to build low cost married student housing. Other sites considered were the former Foster Silva property, also on the riverfront, the southeast corner of the campus at 18th Ave. and Moss St., and other sites further from the campus.

Their recommendation states that the subcommittee considers the University-owned Sand and Gravel site as the best property for the purpose of low cost mobile home type housing and additional student parking facilities. It advises the committee to hire an architect to draw up some tentative plans and make preliminary studies and cost estimates.

Decision not final

To dispel any arguments about the finality of the subcommittee's decision, Director of Fiscal Affairs, J.O. Lindstrom stated, "If after the study we find the land not as good as possible, we will reconsider the other alternatives. 'We don't want to force people to live under adverse conditions if they don't have to.'"

Important areas to be researched by the architect will be possible flooding in the area, sewer construction costs, and proposed access routes through Franklin Blvd. and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. In working out the layouts of the parking lots and living unit areas the architect will be advised by the committee to consider possible future expansion of the mobile unit area or even the erection of an academic building over the site in 20-30 years.

Duplexes considered

The subcommittee has planned the 16 acres to accommodate 160 units, or 10 per acre. The parking areas are intended to replace parking facilities which will be eliminated by academic buildings. If Eugene's city ordinances permit a special allotment of space with duplex mobile dwellings possibly twice as many units could be constructed.

Alvin Urquhart, chairman of the subcommittee, said of the financial backing for the housing, "The State Board of Higher Education is ambivalent to the question of married student housing. Sometimes they approve budgets for it: other times they say they should leave it up to private enterprise. The planning committee should proceed as though the board will grant the funds after our plans are completed."

The only objections foreseen so far by the planning committee are the railroad tracks and a proposed highway construction on the south side of the river.

Marshall Wattles said the ideal situation would probably be an overpass or underpass of the railroad tracks and Franklin Blvd. "Our purpose should be to make the area accessible to lead us into a better use of the land."

"The planning committee should take a stand against a freeway on the south side of the river," Lindstrom said.

Second Adair march held

CORVALLIS—Despite a persistent downpour and security guards maintaining that Adair Air Force Base was off limits, approximately 40 members of the Council of the Poor and their supporters marched through the base again Saturday afternoon.

The same thing happened two weeks ago, and will probably continue, according to spokesmen for the council, for an indefinite number of Saturdays to come.

The marchers included members of the Oregon Human Rights Commission, the Valley Migrant League, and students from the University, Oregon State and Portland State. Each faced a \$50 fine for trespassing on private property owned by United States International University, but no one was arrested.

USIU has been awarded 204 acres of the abandoned air base free under a federal law which says that private educational institutions may receive federal land as a "public benefit allowance." The university, based in San Diego but with campuses in other states and other countries, has acquired land through similar means in the past.

Members of the Council of the Poor spent most of the afternoon Saturday asking the base's security guards, and a representative from USIU, for permission to tour the base. After a final "no" answer had come from these officials, the demonstrators marched in. Led by Rafael Pablo Ciddio Abeyta, an organizer of the poor people's conference, they toured only those parts of the base awarded to USIU, including barracks, a chapel, a recreation hall, and a number of officers' headquarters.

As they marched back out, two Benton County sheriffs drove into the base, and asked them to leave. They did so, chanting "Adair belongs to the people."

Rafael Abeyta told the Emerald that the facilities of the air base awarded to USIU could be used by the Council of the Poor for housing, vocational training,

and headquarters for the council. "Everything on this land that a university can use, we can use too," he said.

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OSPIRG petitions slated

By HARRIET FOTIS
Of the Emerald

Petitioning will begin on all seven of the Oregon State System of Higher Education campuses by members of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG). The petition seeks student support of OSPIRG.

In a Eugene meeting Sunday afternoon, about 50 representatives from campuses throughout Oregon met to discuss canvassing problems. The major point brought out at the meeting was the need for a redirection of emphasis. Instead of explaining the structure of the organization, several representatives present said that they should start talking about what the organization is going to do.

It was also brought out in the meeting that OSPIRG has the workable machinery to operate but it now needs to justify its existence by defining itself. "Why is OSPIRG in existence?"

Don Ross, an associate of consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who has been working with OSPIRG all week, told the meeting the group is going to have to sell the substance not the structure of OSPIRG while

canvassing. Otherwise it's going to be an "issueless organization." He re-emphasized the need for canvassers to know what they are selling before they try to sell it.

Ross told the group not to rely on Nader to bring students in. "It's not Nader's organization...it's your organization." He said that Nader is for the most part "unreachable."

Each individual local board will decide on which problems in their area needed to be attacked while another local board would be working on something else in their own area, according to Sunday's meeting.

It was noted that community support will be needed to get it, OSPIRG, past the State Board but the group should still remain a democratic student organ funded entirely by student monies.

A question and answer sheet and a list of the prominent problems the group hopes to tackle was distributed at the meeting to help educate the canvassers before they begin their circulation of petitions sometime this week.

OSPIRG plans to submit the petitions to the State Board of Higher Education during winter

term and if all goes well OSPIRG can be put into effect during spring term.

Ross, says that the project in Oregon is going so well because there isn't a single large school in Oregon and all the schools are so close together.

Oregon, according to Ross, wasn't the first state the program was initiated in but the student response in Oregon was the most overwhelming, "the students really got behind it."

If Oregon is successful, it is hoped that this success will have a snowball effect on the rest of the country. "If it's a failure," said Ross, "we'll stop it instantly." At the present time Oregon's organization is serving as a model for other states.



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