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EWEB increases rates

Fifty per cent hike to affect University dormitory costs

By BOB JANSEN
Of the Emerald

The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) raised water rates and debated two issues of nuclear energy at a Monday night meeting.

The increased water rates will be effective the first billing period in February. According to Jack Smutz of EWEB, "The end result for both schedules—residential and commercial—will be an increase of 50 per cent."

The rate increase will cause student housing costs to go up, but it will not be so noticeable because it will be added to dormitory fees. H.P. Barnhart, the director of housing at the University, said the cost of sewage and water combined would increase from \$20,000 to \$29,000 a year with the water rate increase. That would be an increase of \$4 a year per dormitory resident.

The water rate increase passed almost unnoticed since there was no debate and the increase passed unanimously. However, when nuclear energy was discussed the pace of the meeting quickened.

At the center of both discussions on nuclear energy was EWEB Commissioner John Reynolds, associate professor of architecture at the University.

Reynolds was accused of misrepresenting the board as a group when he spoke before the nuclear regulatory commission in Portland early in December.

Reynolds was quoted by the *Oregonian* as saying it is "highly doubtful" that EWEB would become involved in any more nuclear projects. EWEB now owns 30 per cent of the Trojan nuclear energy plant near Rainier, Oregon. The *Oregonian* also attributed Reynolds saying that EWEB says utilities, "are putting too many eggs in that particular basket." Reynolds said he was not fully quoted and that he

had made it clear he was giving his personal opinion in Portland and not EWEB's.

At the EWEB board meeting Dec. 8, Reynolds was reportedly rebuked by fellow board member Calvin Schmidt. "Rebuked" was the term used in a story by the *Eugene Register-Guard* and not by Schmidt. Reynolds was not present at the Dec. 8 meeting because of a conference in Washington, D.C.

At the meeting Monday night Reynolds wanted to know, "Was I or was I not rebuked?" Other board members would not answer directly to the question. Finally, Schmidt stated, "I wanted to make it clear to the public that you were not speaking for me."

The only member to answer directly was Richard Freeman, a geology research consultant at the University. "I never intended it as a rebuke," Freeman said. "I ask the board as a group to rescind the rebuke." The suggestion was dropped and Reynolds said he felt bad that the board did not have faith in him.

In other action, the board went on record opposing the nuclear safeguard referendum on November's ballot. This was because of a letter from Marian Frank, a member of the Energy Facility Sitting Council in the state's Department of Energy. In part she said "I ask this board (EWEB) to exercise its responsibility to the people whom it represents, to lend its voice in urging the Governor to sponsor and authorize public meetings designed to increase general understanding of nuclear power, its pros and cons."

Reynolds was the only commissioner to support the idea of drafting a letter to Gov. Straub urging public meetings on nuclear energy so the voters of Oregon could make an intelligent decision for themselves on the nuclear safeguard referendum. Schmidt moved that the commissioners go on record opposing the referendum. The motion was carried 4-1 with Reynolds the lone objector.

Mac Court faces faculty vote

If defeated, students may seek legal aid

Editor's note: This is the second story in a two part series on student control of MacArthur Court. Yesterday's story dealt with the history of Mac COURT.

By LOIS LINDSAY
Of the Emerald

A man who builds his own home may be king of the castle, but student leaders may have to go to court to prove that.

And they're prepared to do so if necessary. If ASUO representatives are unable to slide their proposal calling for student participation in the control of MacArthur Court past the General Faculty today, they may resort to legal action.

The proposal calls for establishment of a student-faculty board to determine policy for scheduling and use of MacCourt, a building they say they funded. Management of the near \$800,000 facility would remain in the hands of professional University administrators.

The ASUO is basing its claim to rightful control on research conducted by Dave Donley of the Incidental Fee Committee. Accord-

ing to Donley's report, the ASUO completely paid for original construction of the facility in the 1920s by floating \$1,000 and \$5,000 bonds. No University monies were utilized.

And because of this, Donley says the students deserve at "least some participation in determining how it's used."

"Actually, I think we (the students) own the building," he maintains. "But we're not pursuing that right now. We're just asking for what is a minimal consideration of our rights — some say in what the building is used for."

Although legal recourse is a possibility, the student representatives say that such action would only be a last resort. According to ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau, if the measure fails in the General Faculty, he will take it before the State Board of Higher Education asking that they institute the concept on a local, if not statewide, basis.

"But if it failed there we would definitely seek legal recourse."

Such legal recourse would involve calling for a declaratory judgement placing rightful ownership of the building with the ASUO, according to ASUO Consultant, Don Chalmers, who worked on the research along with Donley.

The court would then have to decide whether the State Board

had acted as trustee on behalf of the students when they took over control of the facility in 1936. If it decided in favor of the ASUO, the ownership would then be turned back over to the students, says Chalmers.

"But we're not pushing for that," he insists. "All we're saying is that we should be allowed some participation in governing policy for the facility. It's a moral issue and I hope the administration recognizes that."

Donley and Chalmers will both offer testimony on behalf of the proposal at today's meeting.

The fate of the proposal rests directly in the hands of the General Faculty at this point. But the ASUO representatives may have to do some fast-talking to convince the body to approve it.

Both University Pres. William Boyd and Vice-President for Administration and finance Ray Hawk have publicly opposed the measure. And they are maintaining their positions.

Boyd, chairer of the General Faculty, told the *Emerald* he would be speaking on the issue at today's meeting. Although he refused to disclose the exact nature of what he will be saying, he did say that he still stood by his statement of Jan. 7.

(Continued on Page 11)

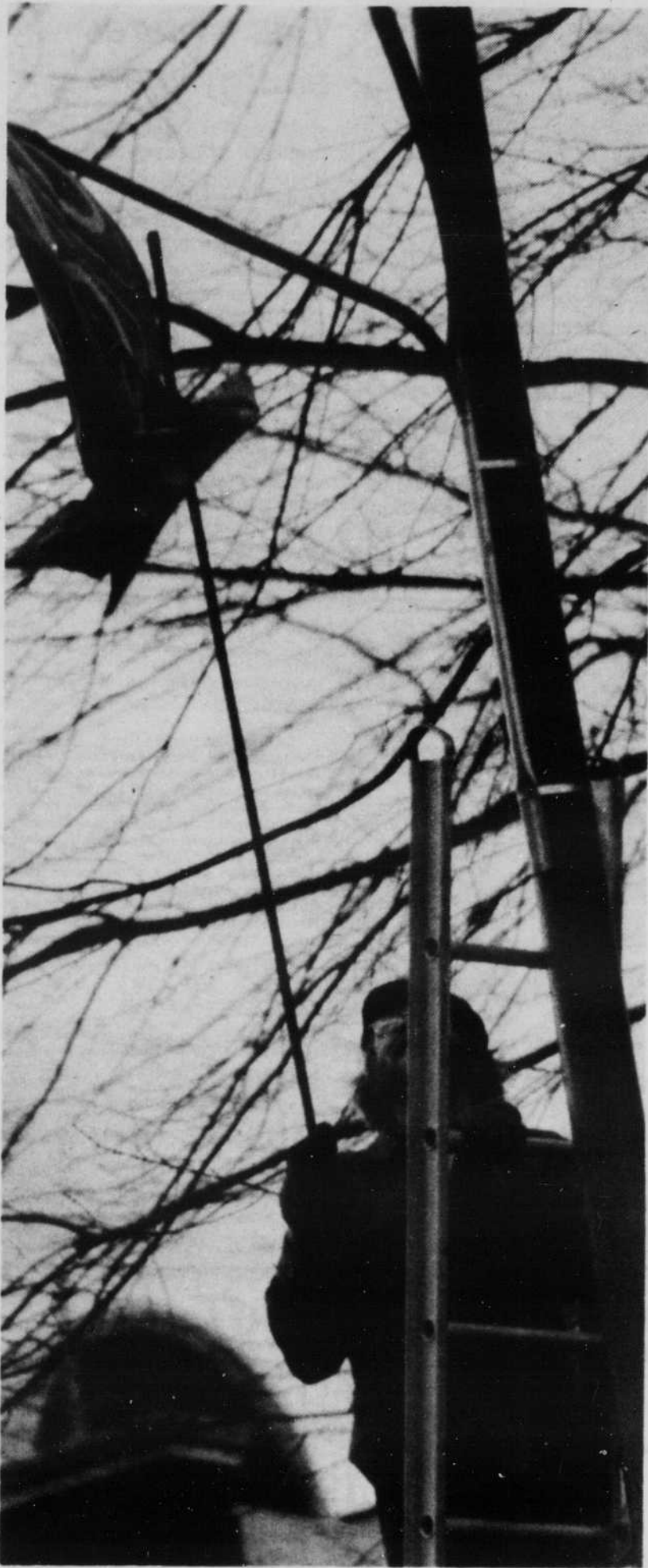


Photo by Greg Clark

Another theft?

Unlike the anonymous "collectors" who have ripped off \$574 worth of the University's new centennial banners, Carl Troy is only trying to untangle one of the "electronic green" flags. The 50 flags cost the University over \$2,000. Story on page 3.

Levy approved for Fern Ridge schools

(AP) — A levy was approved Tuesday for the last school district in Oregon without an approved operating budget for the current school year, and voters in the area around Salem overwhelmingly rejected a proposed mass transit district.

Voters in the Fern Ridge School District approved a levy, 1,632 to 1,028 in unofficial returns.

The district, which has 1,900 pupils, lacks a tax base and has a budget of \$1.7 million for the current school year. The approval applies to about \$861,000 of the budget. The remainder comes from funds of the intermediate education district.

Voters rejected the levy three times before, and the district planned to close schools Feb. 13 if the levy failed again.

Voters in Marion and Polk counties rejected a proposal to form a mass transit district in the two counties. In unofficial returns, the vote against the proposal was 11,056 to 4,653 in Marion County and 3,461 to 966 in Polk County.

The voter turnout, at about 20 per cent in both counties, was about 5 per cent better than usual for special elections.

If the measure had passed, another election would have been held to determine the boundaries of the district and the means of financing it.