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Friday, March 3, 1978

Mill Race drained in body search

The University's Mill Race was drained for nearly eight hours Thursday while the Eugene Police Department continued a search for two missing women in connection with the discovery of a human thigh in a west Eugene trash bin last Friday.

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

According to Lt. Don Lonacker, detective division commander for the Eugene police, nothing was found in the muddy Mill Race to aid the police investigation.

The police drained the section of the Mill Race along Franklin Boulevard because it is near the location of where a 24-year-old Eugene woman was last seen more than a week ago, Lonacker said.

Meanwhile, as the police search continued, Deputy Ed Wilson, Lane County medical examiner, identified the thigh found last week as belonging to a white woman weighing at least 140 pounds.

Wilson said the victim was between 18 and 30 years old and 5-foot-4 to 5-foot-7. More tests are being conducted at the University Health Science Center in Portland to determine the victim's blood type.

The search of the Mill Race was just part of a county-wide search that has been continuing since the discovery of the thigh, Lonacker said.

"So far we're just continuing a search that has been going on for a week, but we're not very close to a solution."



Photo by Dennis Hickok

The Mill Race was drained for almost eight hours Thursday while the Eugene Police Department continued its search for two women.

Although the victim has yet to be identified, police are also looking into the sudden disappearance a week ago of Benitia Gay Chamberlin, 24, of 82 Howard Avenue in Eugene.

Chamberlin was reported missing last Friday by her mother, Doreen Burdick, of 3007 Willamette St., after she failed to return from Sacred Heart General Hospital last Thursday. Chamberlin had been nursing her 11-day-old

daughter who was born premature, and was supposed to return that afternoon.

Her 1966 blue Mercury Comet was found last Friday afternoon in the parking lot of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. plant at 1565 Franklin Blvd. Her purse was also found earlier that afternoon in a University parking lot just south of the Mill Race canoe shack.

Eugene police have joined the Springfield Police Depart-

ment in search for another missing woman. Pamela Lee Bruno, 24, of Springfield, was reported missing by her husband when she failed to return home Feb. 16.

Police have not ruled out the possibility that the disappearances of Chamberlin and Bruno may be connected with the thigh discovery, Lonacker said. Chamberlin is described as white, 5-foot-5, 120 pounds, with straight blonde shoulder-

length hair and blue eyes.

Bruno is described as white, 5-foot-8, 165 pounds, also with blonde shoulder-length hair and hazel eyes.

The Mill Race was drained early Thursday morning, Harold Babcock, Physical Plant director, said. Water pumped from the Willamette river from the Glenwood area began filling the Mill Race again later in the afternoon, he added.

Housing office audit gaining support

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

More letters requesting a University Housing Office audit are being filed with Norma Paulus, secretary of state.

The latest letter was sent to Roy Lieualen, Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, from University Pres. William Boyd requesting the chancellor to forward the audit request to Paulus. Boyd emphasized his letter was prompted by strong internal support from associates in Johnson Hall.

Paulus says she has only been contacted by State Representative Mary Burrows about the housing office audit. Paulus

asked Burrows to send her all available letters and additional information on the situation.

Paulus says her office is currently auditing higher education as a whole, but will not be able to come out with a housing office audit for a few months.

"The housing office has been pinpointed to us, and we plan to go into it in detail," says Paulus. "However, you can't count on this office to make a spot audit. It will come out in the normal course of the overall audit of higher education unless something extraordinary comes up."

Other requests for housing department audits have come from Congressman Jim Weaver, the Office of Student Advocacy,

ASUO and hundreds of Amazon Community tenants (ACT).

The controversy over the housing department books started with a memo issued by Bob Minshall, the housing office's cost-accountant, to Richard Romm, assistant director of the housing office, stating that an estimated \$36,270 surplus in the ACT building reserve fund announced in December was actually a deficit of \$45,810.

Wednesday, the State Comptroller Ross Hall said the Amazon account had a total of \$67,000 in its reserve fund. The housing project must maintain roughly \$43,000 or 1 percent of the total value of the Amazon complex in the fund for future maintenance needs.

Boyd said he is requesting the audit to "lay this situation to rest one way or another."

Recalling last summer's audit by the private Portland firm of Haskins and Sells, an ASUO review and the Amazon policy board that was set up with representatives from ACT and the housing office, Boyd says he feels the problems of the student housing were behind the University.

"To see this thing starting up again is a very unpleasant surprise," says Boyd. "There is a need for the audit because if there is a problem, I can know it and correct it. If there isn't a problem, the community should know it so we don't have the same problems we had last year."