

Symposium's future undecided

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

A diverse group of about 20 women met in the Eugene Public Library Monday night to discuss the future of the area's third consecutive women's symposium, which was funded by the ASUO Incidental Fee Committee last year.

Most of the meeting's two hours involved critiques of a similar symposium held in April, and discussion on how best to spend the funds left in its budget.

The group decided to use all surplus funds for publication of the proceedings of a Third World women's conference held recently in Salem.

Carolina Murillo and other minority women at the meeting stressed the educational nature of the hoped-for publication.

"This will help bring us together," one University student said, adding that the conference's proceedings would alert white women to the problems and concerns of minority women.

The main concern of those present at

Monday night's meeting appeared to be the participation in a future symposium by Eugene's minority women.

A coalition of Third World women withdrew from last April's symposium, charging its coordinators with preventing their full participation.

Other conflicts also divided participants in April's symposium and the Eugene women hope to avoid similar problems with early planning for next year's symposium.

But the women at Monday's meeting spent more time deciding how to spend reserve funds than developing goals and ideas for a future symposium.

One woman standing against a wall finally interrupted the group, "We're talking about the issue that is dividing-up this country... money!"

After a lengthy discussion of who-gets-what, the women agreed with Laurie McClain who said, "I would like to set up a good guideline structure, but leave room for flexibility. And create some trust..."

After allotting funds for publication of

the Third World women's conference proceedings, the women discussed the hiring of coordinators for the future symposium.

Murillo suggested that a screening committee be formed with representatives from diverse student groups and the community. The women decided to meet again in July at an as-yet-unscheduled meeting.

Following Monday's gathering, a new resident of Eugene — Irene — expressed dismay over what she felt was an unpleasant meeting. "There was a whole lot of antagonism there. What went wrong at the last symposium?"

"The women seem to represent very defined groups; they seem quite separate from one another," Irene said.

ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera indicated Monday that his office is committed to a women's symposium and will work closely with its coordinators.

"We will watch the money closely to prevent any of last year's problems," Herrera added.

Herrera admitted he has given little

thought to a future symposium. "I need to sit down and talk it over with Maria Meza (ASUO vice-president for programs and community affairs) and Donna (Donna Shepard, April's symposium coordinator)."

"Maybe we won't have a symposium. You know, somebody asked me if we were going to have a men's symposium," Herrera said.

Shepard, who was within earshot, testily replied, "I don't think you can stop it from happening."

"Well... I don't mean to stop it," Herrera said.

Though the 1979 women's symposium could be in for some rough sailing, many women remain eager to face its problems.

As one woman put it Monday night, "We've got to communicate, educate each other. I really want to see this happen."

Women interested in organizing the symposium should contact the ASUO at 686-3724 and keep their eyes open for publicity about upcoming meetings.

Amazon Appeals Board seeks comment

The Amazon Appeals Board is seeking written comments from people concerned about the debt service policies of family housing at the University.

Currently, the housing office projects that part of the rent money from Amazon Married Student Housing tenants will be used to retire the debt fund incurred building West-

moreland Married Student housing three miles west of campus.

At a meeting last Thursday the Appeals Board decided to solicit comments from the housing office, Amazon and Westmoreland tenants and other people interested in the issue before making its own decision on the debt-funding issue.

Comments should be addressed to any of the Appeals Board's three members: Paul Goldman, 736 PLC; Jon Jacobson, 363 Law Center; or Keli Osborn, 107 Friendly.

Controversy over whether Amazon tenants should help pay off Westmoreland started in February when the Amazon Family Housing Policy Board recommended that Amazon residents no longer be required to contribute to the Westmoreland debt service. The housing office declined to accept that recommendation and the issue was referred to the Amazon Appeals Board for resolution.

Final say rests with the University President over the issue and is guided by the

State Board of Higher Education Policy that "Residents of each of the three types of housing shall contribute, by means of applicable rental rates, toward the total debt service of that type of housing."

The Appeals Board is soliciting comments and arguments explaining why or why not Westmoreland debt service contributions should be paid for by Amazon residents and what principles should be applied to the issue of how much should be paid by residents of each project.

Amazon Community Housing tenants have remained strictly opposed to sharing the Westmoreland debt, saying they shouldn't be expected to pay for housing they don't live in.

Positions still open

The ESCAPE program still needs to fill over 200 requests from the community for student volunteers.

Previous experience is not necessary, according to outgoing director Susannah

Malarkey.

ESCAPE is registering people today and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the EMU lobby. Call the ESCAPE office, 686-4351, for more information.

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Next Emerald Thursday, July 6

