

Boyd accepts appeals board debt decision

By KATHY McMANUS
Of the Emerald

University Pres. William Boyd has informally accepted the Amazon Family Housing Appeals Board's August decision regarding debt service sharing.

Going against advice he received from the University Housing Office, an economist and Vice Pres. Ray Hawk, Boyd last week sided with the board during a Friday morning meeting.

The board's decision halts the housing office practice of automatically assigning the Westmoreland project's debt service to Amazon residents as part of their rental rates.

The housing office has argued that debt service sharing maintains low rental rates at both the Amazon and Westmoreland projects and prevents Westmoreland from suffering a vacancy problem.

The appeals board decision may result in improvements at Amazon if Westmoreland maintains a high occupancy rate and its residents are able to meet the debt incurred during Westmoreland's construction.

Beginning next July, that part of the Amazon rent money assigned to Westmoreland's debt will be placed in a special fund to be used for improvements of the Amazon project.

Boyd, who says he has not had time to release a formal statement on his decision, pointed out that there will be no rent reduction at Amazon.

"Amazon will not be immune to inflation," he said. "There will, in time, be rent increases."

Boyd also recognized the possibility that Amazon won't use the fund.

"One thing I'll watch for is to see that Westmoreland will stay occupied," he said. If it doesn't, the decision requires Amazon residents to continue to help pay for Westmoreland's debt.

That requirement worries Nurit Steinfield, a member of Amazon Community Tenants and the Amazon Policy Board.

"Personally, I think it's (the decision) all right, as long as the money is funneled back into Amazon, but I'm kind of worried that we won't get the money because of loopholes in the decision," she said, adding that the possibility of a Westmoreland vacancy rate is one of those loopholes.

Amazon residents do not want to deprive those at any other housing unit of money they need, but Amazon needs

"He considered it a short-term answer. It is an open-ended decision," Goldman said. Boyd wanted to make sure the appeals board had considered the questions brought up by those who had advised him against it, Goldman said.

Boyd said he did not make up his mind until the meeting. "If, during the meeting, they had said, 'That is an interesting observation—we hadn't thought of that,' then I would have asked them to reconsider their decision."

Goldman was happy with the meeting. "I felt Pres. Boyd was extremely open, willing to listen to our views and ready to express his own openly," he said.

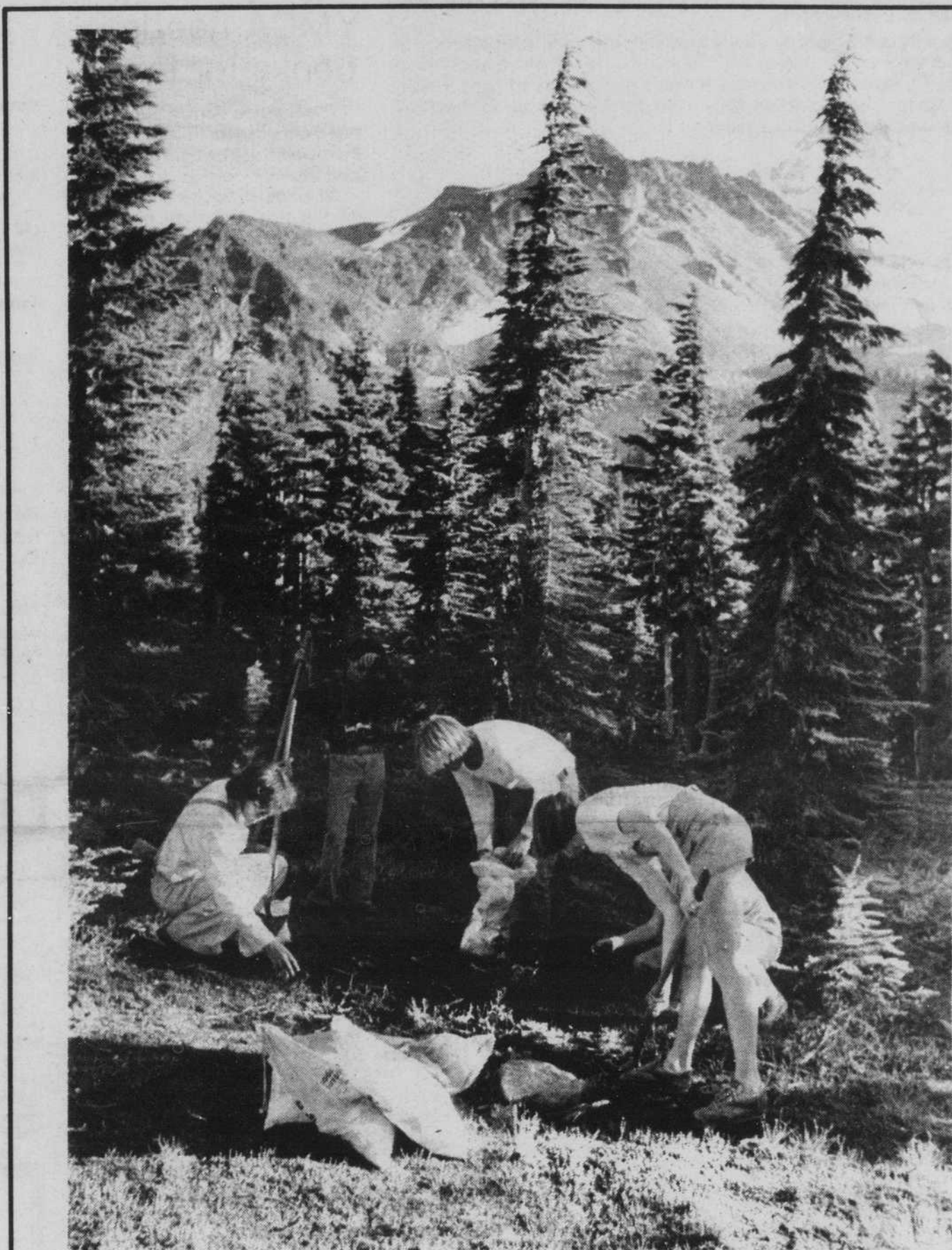


Photo by Kur Wojick

Pack it out

University Outdoor Program members climbed the north slope of Mount Jefferson last weekend and left the park cleaner than they found it. Their project was to clean up areas where hikers had left food wastes and litter.

today

South African newspaper editor Donald Woods brought his firsthand experiences with apartheid to the EMU Ballroom last night. Details on Page 3.

Collective bargaining has only recently emerged at the university level, and will be put to the test on this campus Thursday when the GTFF votes on whether or not it will strike. A look at the negotiations and how a walk-out might affect the University is on Pages 8 and 9.

It's a small world—the newly-elected pope is well known by a sociology professor, who says the pontiff will be more liberal than his predecessors. Page 10.

Recall makes Nov. 7 ballot

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

A measure to recall Lane County Commissioner Archie Weinstein will be on the Nov. 7 general election ballot, Don Penfold, head of the county elections, said Monday morning.

The petition drive to put the measure to a countywide vote gathered more than 18,000 signatures in a two-week effort, which ended yesterday.

The drive began when Jan Newton and Roscoe Caron, both of

Eugene, filed the necessary petition with the county election division. Newton and Caron listed Weinstein's failure to "properly perform his elected duties" as the reason for the recall.

The drive gave more than 15,000 signatures to Penfold Thursday afternoon, just short of the necessary 15,333 to put the measure on the ballot.

Penfold said the committee to recall Weinstein presented the elections division with 186 additional petitions Monday morning that carried more than 2,000 signatures.

The validation of the signatures began Thursday night and elections division employees worked through the weekend to check each petition for discrepancies. Penfold said.

The validation rate has been nearly 90 percent which will give the drive enough signatures to put the measure on a ballot. Penfold added.

"Right now we're aiming at the Nov. 7 ballot so we can save the county taxpayers \$25,000," he said.

Penfold formally notified Weinstein Friday that he will have until next Monday to resign or submit a statement in opposition to the ballot measure.