

Butte debate continues; council, EWEB set meet

By RICHARD WAGONER
Of the Emerald

The controversy over the sale of Gillespie Butte has turned into a full-scale reappraisal of the relationship between the Eugene City Council and the Eugene Water and Electric Board.

And to help solve the problem, the council and EWEB will meet in the next two weeks to discuss the working relationship between the two government bodies.

Meanwhile, the city council voted Wednesday to allow EWEB to sell Gillespie Butte at market value for private development. The city originally wanted to purchase the five-acre butte for a possible park.

But that sale may be stalled again. City councilors learned Wednesday that a group working to preserve the butte as a park is now circulating a petition to put the question of the butte's use on the ballot.

The Gillespie Butte controversy erupted months ago when EWEB decided it no longer needed the parcel of land. EWEB purchased it in 1952 for a reservoir that was never built.

The utility said last year it needed to sell the land at "fair market value" — about \$500,000 — to bail itself out of a growing cash-flow problem.

The city wanted to purchase the butte for a park, but officials agreed it could not afford EWEB's price. The two public bodies exchanged offers and counter-offers for weeks, but no

agreement could be reached.

The council has dropped its efforts to purchase the butte, but now it is calling for clarification of which government body has authority to sell public-owned land.

Council members are considering an ordinance that would affirm their exclusive right to sell property held by EWEB, but only upon EWEB's recommendation. A public hearing on the ordinance will held at the council's April 27 meeting at 7:30 p.m.

EWEB representatives attending Wednesday's meeting had no quarrel with the proposed ordinance, but EWEB board president John Tiffany urged the council to allow the sale of the butte.

"Our cash-flow position hasn't changed any," Tiffany said. "It hasn't gotten any better and, in fact, it gets worse every day. We'd like to go ahead and find a buyer."

Council members authorized EWEB to sell the land, but urged the board members to delay selling the butte until a petition drive by park proposal supporters succeeds or fails.

In other business, the council contracted with the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority for a study of downtown-area air quality.

The city received an \$18,500 federal grant to help fund the study, which will be used in making downtown parking and traffic-circulation decisions.

Psychology department offers 'real-world' work experience

Students who want work experience in business and industry may be interested in the psychology department's Applied Psychology Masters Program.

The 3-year-old program is open to all students with bachelor's degrees, says program director Harold Hawkins.

"A student doesn't have to be a psychology major — probably people with backgrounds in business or economics would be in as good a shape as psychology graduates," Hawkins says.

"We'd love to see people coming from the other side of campus as well as the psychology department."

Hawkins says the program is unique because it emphasizes

practical experience.

"The value of the program is that students get experience they can put on a resume so employers can see that students have had experience in the real world."

The program will graduate about 10 of its 25 students this spring, leaving 10 to 15 fall-term openings. Applications are due May 15.

The program involves two years of graduate study, but Hawkins says prior academic work may be credited toward the program's requirements. They include 45 hours of course work and completion of four projects outside the University, such as work experience.

"Students will work off campus in organizational settings,

including human service agencies and private industry," Hawkins explains.

Agencies involved in the program in the past included the City of Eugene, Sacred Heart General Hospital, Pape Brothers (a tractor repair company), Champion Building, and smaller businesses such as Eugene Print and Pacific Systems Group computer firm.

For more information, students can contact the psychology department's graduate secretary at 686-5060 or Hawkins at 686-4933.

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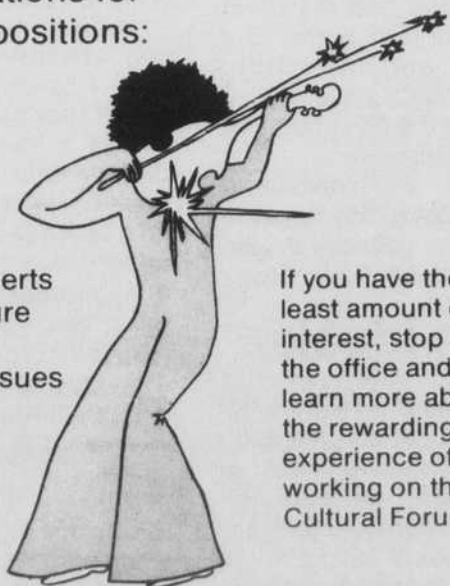
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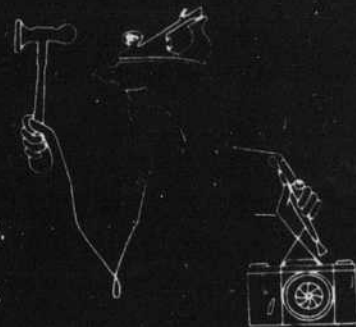
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