

Housing site tested for chemicals

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

Additional soil testing may be necessary at a southern Eugene site being considered for a 24-unit, low-income housing project, the Lane County Board of Commissioners decided Wednesday.

No tests will be ordered, however, until the board receives additional information about lab tests performed at the request of William Orr, a University geology professor who lives near the site, located at 38th and Hilyard Streets.

Tests conducted by an Ohio research company indicated that the site contains more than a trace of several toxic chemicals that have been linked to cancer.

Neighborhood groups contend that the proposed site is adjacent to land used as a public dump about 30 years ago, and that toxic chemicals

from that dump pose a health hazard to housing project residents.

The City of Eugene owns the site, which it purchased in 1979 to use for low-income housing.

Lane County officials, eager to help Eugene meet its low-income housing need, applied in April, 1981, for federal Housing and Urban Development funds to finance the project.

HUD has already approved plans for 18 two-bedroom and six three-bedroom apartments on the site, which the city is prepared to sell for an amount still under discussion.

Earlier water tests performed by the state Department of Environmental Quality concluded that the site contained no health or environmental hazards, but project opponents objected to the way in which the tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Bill Rogers said he is opposed to what he called "small ghetto" housing developments because of crime problems they have caused in other areas.

"I don't want 24 units of low-income housing next door to me," Rogers said.

Other commissioners agreed that they might prefer to spend low-income housing funds in other ways, but noted that HUD will approve funds only for new construction.

"I'm in agreement that this is not the best means to meet this need, but it may be the only way to meet the need," said board chairer Jerry Rust.

Data collected by the City of Eugene indicates that more than 12,000 Eugene households are lower-income. The Lane County Housing Authority currently has more than 2,000 eligible families on its waiting list.

Senate approves graduation with honors

The University Senate approved a motion Wednesday initiating honors at graduation at the University.

The Senate had earlier sent the motion back to committee for additional research and amendments. The main concern then was that the original proposal would discriminate against students in the traditionally more difficult departments like biology and chemistry.

Dan Cohen, author of the proposal, said that a discrepancy between departments and the University as a whole is not present, and added that students in the chemistry and biology departments do just as well as the rest of the University.

The cost of the proposal was estimated to be \$1,500 for the first term with an additional cost of \$3,000-5,000 per year, which will be paid by the University registrar's office.

The awards will be based on students' percentile ranking in the graduating class. The top 10 percent of each class receive Cum

Laude, five percent receive Magna Cum Laude and two percent receive Summa Cum Laude.

Corresponding Grade Point Indices, currently 3.6, 3.7, and 3.85, will be adjusted each spring term.

In other action, the Senate discussed a proposal which would have sent a letter to U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., and other members of the Oregon Congressional delegation asking them to defeat pending legislation which would eliminate the mandatory retirement age, now set at 70.

"The problem is not age; the problem is tenure," said Pres. Paul Olum in a speech to the Senate.

Olum said the effects of such legislation on universities would be "devastating" due to problems with tenured professors.

The motion was sent to an ad hoc committee for further study.

The Senate also heard discussion on the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

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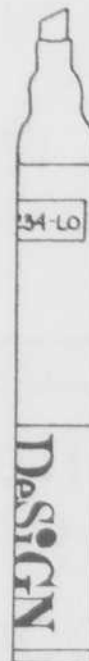
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