

Amazon undergoes renovation

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

The "wrinkled" walls of Amazon Student Housing are getting a much-needed facelift this summer. Workers are busily brushing fresh coats of rust-colored paint on the exteriors of the 18 buildings before Oregon's monsoon season arrives.

The cosmetic surgery has been long overdue. The badly peeling paint on the buildings that house University students and their families has made the housing, what some have called, the neighborhood eyesore at 24th Avenue between Patterson and Amazon streets.

Amazon hasn't been exactly "the kind of face" the University wants to present, says Marjory Ramey, acting housing director. "We regret their appearance."

The \$98,500 facelift includes sandblasting and painting the exteriors of the 18 buildings, as well as repairing and reroofing four one-story buildings — at no cost to taxpayers.

All construction and design costs are being financed from the Amazon Building Repair Reserve. No state tax funds or bond sales are involved.

Eugene architect Albert Pastine designed the final drawings and specifications for the "cosmetic surgery," which should be completed by mid-September, Ramey says.

The painting is part of an ongoing renovation project for the complex located several blocks south of campus. The project is "moving along well," Ramey says, although the rain has been an obstacle.

The facelift's finishing touches will include landscaping once the painting is done, Ramey says.

Amazon residents have been "very patient" during the renovation project, she says. Letters were sent to prospective renters informing them of the disruptive and noisy work, which has included replacing gutters, down spouts and storm sewers.

The Amazon apartments originally were



Photo by Mark Pynes

Carpenter Roy Roth repairs the weathered face of Amazon's "temporary" student housing.

built in Portland during World War II to house shipyard workers. The University purchased them shortly after the war and moved them to Eugene with the idea of using them as temporary housing until a better complex was built. That complex never materialized and the "temporary" buildings still stand.

Amazon has 246 unfurnished two-bedroom apartments that provide low-cost housing to married students with or without children and to single students with children.

Lemon law puts bite on sour automobiles

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

If the new car is turning into an old clunker before its time, the "Lemon Law" recently passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed by Gov. Vic Atiyeh will fix it.

Passage of the Lemon Law was not only a victory for Oregon consumers, but a job well done for the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, as well.

OSPIRG became involved with pushing for the law in 1981, when it discovered Oregonians had filed 256 complaints concerning faulty vehicles in the year ending June 30, 1982.

Those complaints translated into more than \$1.25 million that Oregon consumers paid for new motor vehicles that failed to satisfy warranties.

Before the law passed, there were no guidelines to determine what constitutes a "lemon" vehicle.

"The Lemon Law will rectify this situation," says Amy Gredler, chair of OSPIRG's state board. "It will provide the consumer with clear guidelines through which to receive an effective and meaningful remedy."

According to the bill, a vehicle will be considered a lemon if it has been out of service for 30 or more business days, or had a major part or system repaired four or more times during the first year or first 12,000 miles of ownership.

The new law requires the manufacturer to replace such a vehicle or refund its full purchase price.

"The Lemon Law is the most significant piece of consumer legislation to come before (the Oregon Legislature)," says Sen. Mae Yih, D-Albany. "The Lemon Law gives Oregon citizens meaningful assurances that when they make one of their lifetime's most costly purchases — their automobile — they will get their money's worth."

The unanimous passage of the bill in the House and the Senate were due largely to the efforts of OSPIRG, according to Daniel Malarkey, a state board member.

OSPIRG helped document consumer discontent through the University's hotline and gathered testimony to present to the Legislature, Malarkey says.

Members of OSPIRG also met with members of the Oregon Automobile Dealers Association to help write the new law. This helped defuse the opposition so the bill could pass through the Legislature relatively easily, Malarkey says.

Passage of the Lemon Law proves students can be effective lobbyists and means OSPIRG is an issue group to be reckoned with, he says.

"This helps establish our credibility in the Legislature."

U.S. walking Vietnam 'path' with Nicaragua

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., insisted Tuesday that the United States must end the secret war in Nicaragua or else risk engaging U.S. troops in armed hostilities.

AuCoin echoed the call of Pope John Paul II to "terminate all future aid to El Salvador" until all the civil war parties sit down and negotiate a new government of national reconciliation based on an equitable distribution of power.

The government of El Salvador "does not yet have the popular support of its own people," AuCoin said. "It represses, it brutalizes: in the last three years 30,000 innocent civilian non-combatants have been assassinated by forces either in the army, in the government or by forces very close to either the army or the government."

A close final vote is expected today in the House of Representatives on legislation that would end all covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. The legislation is not given much of a chance of

passing the Republican-controlled Senate.

Late last week Congress met in a secret session for only the third time in nearly 150 years to investigate covert CIA operations in Nicaragua.

AuCoin touched base

in Oregon over the weekend, and Tuesday he discussed his recent trip to Central America — as well as this week's

escalation of military activities in the Caribbean, Pacific and Honduras — with KXL radio in Portland.

Earlier this month AuCoin, who is a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and four other Congressmen talked with the Sandinistas for three days and, for one day, looked at questions of human rights in El Salvador.

The delegation was sent by Speaker



Rep. Les AuCoin

of the House Thomas O'Neill Jr., who on Monday came out publicly against Pres.

Ronald Reagan's imminent deployment of 4,000 American troops to Honduras, and two 10-boat Aircraft Carriers which led battle forces to the Caribbean and Pacific coastal waters of Nicaragua.

O'Neill termed these military exercises "an unneeded show of strength."

On Tuesday afternoon — just hours before Reagan's assurance at a press conference that the nation was not being led into war — a Pentagon official told Alfonso Chardy of Knight-Rider News Service that U.S. planes and ships might "harass" Nicaraguan or Cuban vessels or aircrafts suspected of carrying arms intended for El Salvador.

The prospects of 1) a flotilla, 2) 4,000 American troops in Honduras (the largest force the United States will ever have had in that country) and 3) upgraded airfields along the Nicaraguan border have Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., concerned that "a shell aimed by Nicaragua against the CIA-backed forces could strike Americans and provoke another Gulf of Tonkin."

In 1964 the Gulf of Tonkin was the first site of armed confrontation between North Vietnamese and American troops. The incident prompted the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, in which Congress granted Pres. Lyndon Johnson war-making powers independent of Congress.

AuCoin joined other members of Congress who have linked the pattern of escalating activities in Central America to the situation in Vietnam, which then New York Times Vietnam correspondent David Halberstam termed "the making of a quagmire."

"We are following the familiar path that slowly and surely led us into Viet-

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