

Women's volleyball
turns up winners
but loses Voelz
See Page 17

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Demolition awaits the famed Animal House

By Paul Sturtz

Of the Emerald

John Belushi might roll over in his grave if he heard of the latest casualty in the West University land scramble — the A.W. Patterson house on 11th Avenue, more popularly known as "Animal House."

The house, built in 1910 and used for the exterior shots in the film, will be demolished in December, says local developer Ron Braatz.

Braatz, along with furniture tycoon Harry Rubenstein, received city approval for the project Sept. 4 and say they plan to build a new medical building that will provide space for the Women's and Children's Clinic, now located directly across the street from the well-known house.

Construction should begin in January on the 9,820-square-foot, two and one-half-story structure, Braatz says.

The clinic has been given word that Sacred Heart General Hospital has plans for its present building, says Sandi Johnson, the clinic's business manager. The clinic probably will need to find a new building when its lease expires next May, Johnson says.

The present owner of the house, Gordon Erickson, says he has not officially sold the property yet but plans to once the developers come forward

with "earnest money." "I haven't gotten any written confirmation yet. I'm sitting here waiting," he says.

The 12 tenants of the building, a rooming house for the last several years, expressed surprise when told of the imminent demolition of their home. Although the house is listed on the state inventory of historic buildings, it is not designated yet as a historic landmark.

"This should be a national landmark," tenant Rex Thompson says. "If people keep on tearing down old buildings, there will be no history left. You'll only be able to see it in books."

The city, in reviewing Braatz's application, investigated the possibility of rehabilitating the house but finally concluded that its poor upkeep and construction offset any possible historic merit.

In addition to its role in the popular fraternity-house film, members of Dr. A.W. Patterson's family lived in the house until 1956. Patterson, one of Eugene's most prominent pioneers, plotted and surveyed the town in the mid-1800s with Eugene Skinner.

Although the historical merit of the building is debatable, comments from residents and employees in the neighborhood



Photo by Ross Martin

The A.W. Patterson house, which became a popular tourist attraction after the movie *Animal House* was released, may be torn down to make room for a new medical building

confirmed its appeal as a tourist attraction.

"Tons of people came in during the summer and asked, 'Is that the fraternity where *Animal House* was filmed?'" says Laura Phillips, a clerk at Peralandra Books & Records, located across the street from

the house.

"If the demolition goes through as planned, there will be one acknowledgement that the famous house once stood there — Braatz plans to place a commemorative plaque on a bench along the sidewalk with a brief history of Dr. Patterson

and the site.

But this does not seem to appease Thompson, who says he's going to start a petition campaign.

"If *Animal House* is destroyed, they're going to take part of Eugene with it," he says.

NCC has rooms to rent

By Julie Freeman

Of the Emerald

Just off 11th Avenue there is something that many students have been searching for in vain the last few months — rooms for rent.

Northwest Christian College, located one block from campus, has about 35 spaces open in its dormitory units and is making them available to University students through its "dormitory only" program.

The program was developed more than 10 years ago and has been remarkably successful, says David Wagner, dean of students for the college.

About 30 students from the University currently are living in the NCC dorms, including Joelle Rankins, a senior who could not find an apartment this fall after plans to live with a friend fell through at the last minute.

She got on a waiting list for the University dorms, but ended up at NCC after she remembered a piece of literature she had received from the college about its dormitory program.

"I didn't feel like sleeping in my car the first week of school," Rankins said.

Increased enrollment at the University has caused housing to become a scarce commodity. Many students began looking for apartments in July. And by August, University housing was filled to capacity.

"We still have a few women in temporary housing," says Marjory Ramey, director of the University's

housing department.

Temporary beds are available in guest apartments located in Bean East, Carson and Walton complex, Ramey says. But the housing department is not encouraging the use of these or the Christian college facilities.

NCC offered to house the University's overflow, but the housing department did not choose to transfer or recommend students to NCC, Ramey says.

"There is nothing wrong with their housing," she says. "I just didn't think it was appropriate to assign people there because they have a different set of rules than the University."

No smoking or drinking is allowed on the NCC campus or in the rooms, and there are strict visitation rules for the men and women residents, who live on separate floors, Wagner says. Three personal references also are needed before a student can become a resident.

But other than this, the dormitories run on the same basic system as those at the University.

The cost for a one-year, double-occupancy lease that includes room and board is \$2,526. Students also must pay a \$50 deposit and a \$30 per-term student fee, which entitles them to all NCC benefits such as athletic events and student elections.

For more information, students can contact Wagner at 687-9456 or pick up an application packet at 828 E. 11th Ave.

Board OKs land transfer

By Gary Jimenez

Of the Emerald

The Riverfront Research Park received a push along the road to implementation Friday when the State Board of Higher Education "enthusiastically approved" a set of conditions for handing over 71 acres of University property to the project's master developer.

The State Board, which approved the establishment of the research park's Master Development Plan, met for the first time this academic year at the University.

Also approved at the meeting were conditions for selecting a developer and a plan to create a research advisory board for the project. A list of "permitted activities" and design standards also were established for the research park.

The meeting was highlighted by the acclamations of Chancellor William "Bud" Davis, who lauded the investment of state lottery funds into Oregon's eight state colleges and universities.

"Good things are happening in the State System," he said. Davis went on to cite the positive uses of lottery monies.

Davis also was elated over the marked improvement of Oregon high school student's Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. Oregon students improved their verbal scores by an average of nine points and math scores by 12 points over the previous year.

The chancellor attributed the improvement to the new high school course requirements for entrance into State System of Higher Education institutions.

Oregon high school students now must take four years of English, three years of mathematics and social science, and two years of science in order to enroll at a state university.

Finally, Davis applauded the State System's efforts in marketing state colleges and universities, and in retaining last year's students. Enrollment is up in the state schools by 2.2 percent and at the University by 3.6 percent.

In other action, the State Board approved a Peace Studies certification program at Oregon State University, and a priorities list for State System building construction.

Because of the board's action concerning the Oregon State Peace Studies Program, OSU will become one of 20 colleges nationwide now offering courses in hrenology — the study of peace and human rights.

Courses will be taught in such subjects as the effects of bacterial, chemical and nuclear warfare. The attitudes of a diverse group of people toward war, including Ghandi, Christ, Hitler and Patton, also will be examined.

The Peace Studies Program will be offered as an emphasis, not as a major. One of the program's initiators was Linus Pauling, a two-time winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and a former student and professor at OSU.

A committee report to the board listed priorities for capital construction by the State System. High priority items were instructional and research facilities. Museums, theaters and arts facilities were given the lowest priority.