

Lincoln school building slated for closure Dec. 15

By Linda Hahn
Of the Emerald

Lincoln School will close its doors to tenants Dec. 15 after the Eugene School Board District 4J voted to close the building on a recommendation from an advisory committee.

The Lincoln School Citizen's Advisory Committee reported that the building is not safe and is not economically feasible to repair. Consultants have estimated that restoration would cost \$2.9 million. Presently, seven tenants remain in the building, and four have already made arrangements to move.

"For the last several years we have heard problems of structural failures at Lincoln. Recently we've had the heating problem," said Margaret Nichols, superintendent of schools.

One boiler and a condensate pump have failed, which would cost about \$14,100 to repair. The building also violates a number of fire codes.

The ultimate fate of the building will be determined by the board with recommendations from the committee and the public. A land use planning hearing will provide a forum for public comment Nov. 20, but final decisions may take two to three months, said Charles Hamby, district business service administrator.

In the interim, board member Sue Miller recommended the building have an "old home week."

"Each school is much more than the sum

of its parts," she said. She suggested a school closing ceremony where the neighborhood and Lincoln School alumni could have a final farewell for the 61-year-old building.

How the property will be converted and the prospect of an empty building until a sale concerned the board as well as the committee.

To avoid vandalism, board member Steve Robinson asked whether it would be wise to demolish the structure and simply sell the land. But neighborhood residents wanted to hold out for a better alternative.

"The neighborhood still hopes for some good future for the building," said Paul Conti, vice chair for the Westside Neighborhood Quality Project. "We still fantasize someone will take over and rehabilitate it."

He suggested the building not be sacrificed until all options have been played out.

"If some other potential buyer wanted to preserve it, the community would be thrilled," said Molly Stafford, advisory committee member.

Until the future of the building is determined, neighborhood residents have volunteered to keep an eye out for vandals, Nichols said.

"We are sensitive to what it means" to leave Lincoln empty, she said. While the doors will be chained, the windows will not be boarded. Board member Jack Billings recommended that the school district cut shrubs and add lights to avoid vandalism.

Humanities scholars address society's crises in conference

By Kirsten Bolin
Of the Emerald

"What are the Humanities doing in a World Like This?" a conference that starts today, focuses on the important work being done by campus humanities scholars nationwide in response to some of the most critical dilemmas of modern life.

The conference, to be held at the Eugene Hilton Conference Center through Saturday, will spotlight the insights of scholars in fields ranging from history to comparative religion and about such challenges as racial inequality, the feminist movement, worldwide scarcity of resources and nuclear proliferation.

A play about Abigail Scott Duniway, the Northwest's most vocal advocate of women's rights, and Harvey Scott, a leading opponent and the brother of Abigail, is also part of the conference.

Edwin Bingham, University professor of Pacific Northwest history, worked with playwright Charles Deemer in

creating "Abigail and Harvey," which will be presented at the Hult Center on Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Featured speakers at the conference include Diane Middlebrook, chair of the Feminist Studies Program at Stanford University and Benjamin DeMott, an English professor at Amherst College and a frequent contributor to the Atlantic Monthly. Harper's, the New York Times Book Review and other national publications. Special luncheon speaker for the event is Robert Landauer, editorial writer and editor for The Oregonian.

Also appearing are historians Gregg Herken, of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California, and William Appleman Williams of Oregon State University, speaking on modern historians' interpretations of American nuclear policy. Both are widely published authors.

Other speakers include: •Randall McGowen and Joan Pierson, both University professors, discussing recent South African literature;

•Margaret Blades, Linfield College, and University professor Virpi Zuck, on new feminist literature in France and Scandinavia;

•Gilbert La Freniere, Willamette University; William Fischer, Portland State University; Frank Nelson, Linfield College; and Gary Ferngren, OSU, exploring such areas as artificial intelligence, bio-medical ethics and the history of the idea of "progress";

•Lane McGaughey, Willamette University, on the call for social activism in the church, including the sanctuary movement;

•Stephen Snyder, Linfield College, on the history of women in religion;

•Kathleen McLaughlin, Lewis and Clark College, looking at scholarly responses to cults and new forms of religion in this country;

•Cheyney Ryan, University professor, and Peter List, OSU, on modern philosophical approaches to the problem of limited resources worldwide.

The conference is free and open to the general public.

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