

University, area residents oppose research park development plans

By Sheri Metzler
Of the Emerald

The Community Council met Tuesday night to discuss questions of land use and classified research at the proposed Riverfront Research Park.

The council is a newly formed group that opposes various policies of the Eugene City Council.

Al Urquhart, a University geography professor, and David Thaler, a research assistant at the University Institute of Molecular Biology, both oppose the construction of the park, which is to be used for various types of University and commercial research.

A feasibility study presented to the Riverfront Project Commission in late January said the park should provide an incubator space for graduate students and professors interested in commercialization of technically-oriented ideas, promote job opportunities for students, attract research specialists who could double as visiting professors and recruit manufacturing, computer and real estate firms interested in doing research.

One of the reasons Urquhart opposes the park is because no alternative sites for the park were ever considered, he said, and he doesn't think the riverfront is a place for industry, commerce and housing.

"This is a good case of poor government; absolutely rotten government," Urquhart said.

He pointed out that citizens can have input if they look into special district legislation and talk directly to the planners the developers have employed.

Urquhart is also against using the Willamette Greenway for industrial purposes. The Greenway, the undeveloped bank

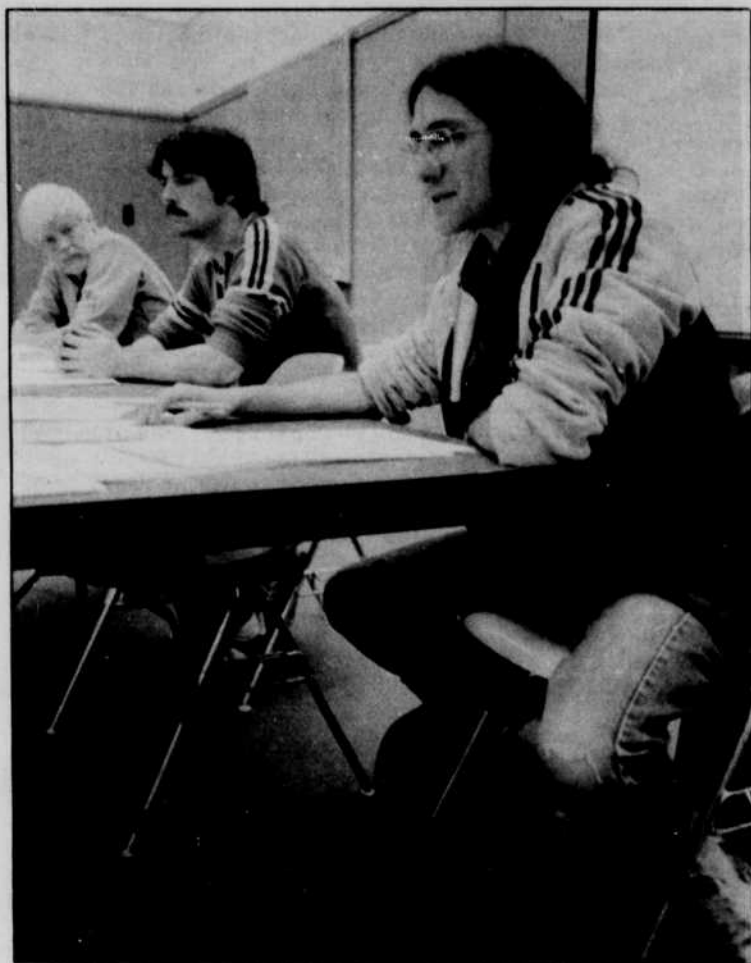


Photo by Bobbie Lu
Geography Professor Al Urquhart (rear), Eugene resident Richard Gold (middle) and University research assistant David Thaler speak out against the proposed Riverfront Research Park at a Community Council meeting Tuesday night.

along the Willamette River near the Autzen Stadium footbridge, is the site of the proposed research park.

Thaler also opposes the research park because of the proposal to do classified research there. The proposal includes a weapons ban, which would prohibit testing weapons; however, the

language is very ambiguous, he said.

"It is not clear what a weapon is," he said.

Thaler is working for the prohibition of classified research altogether. He pointed out that it already is prohibited at the University because of the open education and research atmosphere.

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Senate Continued from Page 3

ed they didn't want to be in Student Senate or couldn't make the time sacrifice. We ended up with about 10 student senators in the early part of the fall term."

The senate was able to attract people because the Student Senate is doing more substantial things than it has in the recent past, MacDonald said.

"No one wants to be in a body

that's powerless," he said. "Working within the framework that we have, we've brought a lot more power to the Student Senate. And it's not power that we've taken from anybody else. It's just using the offices of the Student Senate in a responsible way."

Senator Dan Thoma attributes the improvement in the senate to the fact that it has been able to attract people who are really interested in what is going on.

"It's been really nice that we've been able to fill the vacant seats and get dedicated people in there," he said.

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-in 1919, Fritz Pollard became the first Black to play professional football for a major team, the Akron Indians. In 1916 Pollard had been the first Black to play in the Rose Bowl?

-Bill Russell was the first Black man to coach a major professional sports team, the Boston Celtics?

-Hattie McDaniel played a role in Gone With The Wind which earned her the first Black Academy Award?

-Paul Robeson, a multi-talented artist, athlete, singer, actor shocked the government in 1949 by speaking out against the Black American war effort on behalf for a racist society. His role as Othello on Broadway in 1942 ran for 296 performances, and was highly praised by the New York drama critics?

-Mary McLeod Bethune, an outstanding Black woman rose from a field hand picking cotton to the position of confidante and advisor to Franklin Roosevelt?

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