

Oregon Daily Emerald

Monday, October 19, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 89, Number 33

Inside:

- Presidential forum, Page 3
- Bicycle thefts, Page 8
- Ducks/UCLA game, Page 13



Photo by Bobbie Lo

Students opposed to the site of the Riverfront Research Park protested on the steps of Johnson Hall before marching to City Hall on Friday

PACs confront research park

Opponents of Riverfront site undertake long, uphill battle.

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

Two local political action committees are gearing up for final battle to put a stop to the siting of the Riverfront Research Park.

Citizens for Responsible Land Use and Citizens for Fair Tax Distribution are preparing to circulate petitions that will address areas of land use and funding associated with the park. The committees are attempting to get city-wide initiatives on the May 1988 ballot.

The problems the committees face are two-fold, however. Not only is there a difficult road ahead in changing the particulars of the master site plan, but if the site plan is approved as expected by January or February, the ballot measure will be a moot subject.

"This is really the last chance," said Dan Stotter, coordinator of Citizens for Responsible Land Use and ASUO liaison for the research park project.

Stotter said he hopes supporters of the initiatives will be out collecting signatures by November.

Although the committees have taken different approaches in tackling the proposed site of the park, they both retain the same goals, Stotter said.

"The area north of the railroad should be used principally for recreational and natural resource uses," Stotter said.

"The use of a research development office space is inappropriate for the area," he added.

Stotter suggested the University revert back to a 1979 plan for the area, titled the "University of Oregon Playing Field Master Plan." The plan called for the expansion of recreational uses, including the construction of four large playing fields.

"They completely abandoned that plan," Stotter said.

Others, however, see the situation in a different light. John Moseley, University vice president for research, said the location of the research park is no longer an issue.

"That (north of Franklin Boulevard) is the site for the Riverfront Research Park. There is not another site. That is the site," Moseley said.

"The University will certainly cooperate and participate in any other substantive developments of research or high-tech parks anywhere in the region. We are very interested in that," he said.

"But that's different from this park. It is not a question of another site. Another site would be another park."

Turn to Park, Page 4

Marchers hit stride, protest site of research park

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

A small group of students marched to City Hall on Friday, protesting the proposed site for the Riverfront Research Park.

Hoisting signs that read, "No Riverfront Research Park-ing lot," "Save the Greenway," "University land belongs to students" and "Sorry, wrong site," the protesters urged the University and various commissions to reconsider choosing the area north of Franklin Boulevard as the site of the research park.

The march wound its way down 13th

Avenue to High Street and then on to City Hall where the group paraded around the block in front of television cameras.

Before leaving for downtown, the protesters gathered on the steps of Johnson Hall and answered questions from the media.

"We're making a statement to Paul Olum and the University administration that we don't like the Riverfront Research Park as proposed," said Dan Stotter, ASUO liaison to the project and a University law student.

The area north of the Southern Pacific railroad tracks should be left as is or developed for student use, Stotter said.

Stotter also called upon research planners and University officials to recognize student input toward the project. He said student opinion largely has been ignored.

The protesters are not against the park itself, just the location, Stotter said.

"There are much better places that make better sense," Stotter said, suggesting West Eugene, the area around Autzen Stadium and downtown Eugene as possible locations for the research park.

Another protester, Tom Lester, said the area between Franklin Boulevard and the Willamette River would be a satisfactory location for the park if con-

struction only occurred south of the railroad tracks.

"We think south of the tracks would be a good place, an acceptable place to develop," Lester said.

The march was sponsored by two Eugene political action committees, Citizens for Responsible Land Use and Citizens for Fair Tax Distribution. Both groups were formed within the last month in response to the master site plan of the research park.

Lester said student opposition to location of the park was strong.

"We'd like to develop it consistent with recreational and outdoor uses, and protect the eco-system," Lester added.