

Inside:

- Racial probe continues, Page 6
- Joan Baez in Eugene, Page 7
- Whodini reviewed, Page 16

Oregon Daily Emerald

Thursday, October 29, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 89, Number 41

Businesses near campus disagree over transients

By Will Holbert
Emerald Associate Editor

A gravelly voice calls out to a passer-by on East 13th Avenue.

"Hey bro, spare me a quarter?"

The passer-by obliges. The transient is a fellow human being, living life at the absolute rock bottom. The guy probably hasn't eaten in days, besides, the quarter will not be missed. A small and easily forgotten price to pay for aiding another in distress.

This scenario, of the generous college student flipping a quarter to a bum, has local business people and police frustrated and somewhat angry. Both blame a large part of the transient problem on what they see as the misguided philanthropy of the University community.

"They've (the students) less money than anybody in the community... what are they giving these jerks money for?" asked Jim Ivory, owner of Eugene Athletic in the downtown mall. "Unless they're afraid they're going to be in the same boat some day, and they're afraid their karmas will be affected or something," he added.

The police and store owners complain about student's naivete, and say the most effective way to get rid of the transients would be if the students stopped giving them money.

"They would simply have to move on to greener pastures if people didn't support them," said Eugene Police

Sgt. Dick Hansen. The money always goes to buy alcohol or drugs, and if the transients want to eat, they can rely on organized charity, like the downtown mission, Hansen said.

"Giving them money does not work," he said.

Shop owners are reluctant to ask transients to leave, fearing the wrath of sympathetic students who may boycott their businesses, according to Hansen.

"We all feel for those people," said Dave Gibson, a general partner in Kinkos on East 13th Avenue. "If you only knew what you're contributing to... what's happening is that person that's getting the money is taking it down, getting loaded, and it just kind of perpetuates that cycle with them."

But Gibson doesn't think the transient problem is as bad as last year. He credits increased police patrols with cutting down the number of transients.

Businessman Don Scarpelli Jr., manager of 7-11, agrees the problem has subsided.

Scarpelli, who has managed the 7-11 franchise since 1978, said the transient problem then was "a hundred times worse."

"I mean, it is nice now compared to what it was back then, it was absolutely unreal... they were thick," Scarpelli said.

The "punk rockers" pose the newest threat to the 7-11 establish-

Turn to Transients, Page 3

Olum to step down in 1989

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education has announced it is making plans for University President Paul Olum's retirement although it recognized Olum as an "exemplary president," according to a written statement by the board.

"At this stage in Dr. Olum's higher education career, it is clear that within the next few years a change will necessarily occur in the leadership of the University. As a result, representatives of the board have met with Dr. Olum to plan an orderly transition so that the University can manage its future and the board can organize an orderly and timely search for a successor," said board Vice President James Petersen.

According to board officials, Olum is scheduled to retire June 30, 1989. A search committee will begin looking for a new president next year.

Olum, however, said in a prepared statement Wednesday that he was "disappointed" with the decision to end his term at that time, saying the University is undertaking many projects that won't be finished until 1992.



Paul Olum

The board proposed in its statement Olum serve in an undefined capacity after his retirement. Olum declined to take such a position.

"I do appreciate the kind words about me in James Petersen's statement... but I doubt that such an appointment would be desirable, particularly because of the difficulties it might create for my successor as president."

Commissioners choose Edmunson

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

A Eugene lawyer was chosen by the Lane County Board of Commissioners Wednesday to replace former District 39 state Rep. Ron Eachus.

Jim Edmunson, an attorney with the Malagon and Moore law firm, received four of the five commissioners' votes at the conclusion of the public hearing. Edmunson outpaced Carl Below, a Eugene

and Santa Clara firefighter, who received one vote during the proceedings, and Wes Hare, a member of the Bethel School District.

A 1983 graduate of the University Law School, Edmunson specializes in workers' compensation issues with Malagon and Moore. He also is a former journalist, having worked for newspapers in Pendleton, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, and Astoria from 1973 to 1980.

Turn to Edmunson, Page 4

Research park may remove University steam plant

By Andrew LaMar
Emerald Reporter

Most University students, staff and faculty are in the dark about where the energy comes from to light the University.

The University steam plant, which sits beside the duck pond across Franklin Boulevard from campus, has been supplying University energy needs since 1952. The plant provides campus with electricity, hot water and compressed air.

The plant has four boilers and a capacity of six megawatts, which easily supplies the three-quarters of campus the plant covers.

"We're the University's best kept secret," said Ray Hovling, a shift engineer for the plant. "We do such a good job and no one knows we're here."

But lack of recognition is the least of Hovling's problems.

The master site plan for the Riverfront Research Park calls for the relocation of the University physical plant and either relocation or elimination of the \$40-million steam plant.

Dan Williams, University vice president for administration, said University officials are still debating the master site plan and what to do with the steam plant.

"The question is is it financially practical to get out of the steam business, and



Photo by Christophe Chabaudie

The University steam plant, located behind the Millrace Pond off of Franklin Boulevard, faces an uncertain future.

that takes a lot of complicated analysis," Williams said.

Cost is not the only criteria University officials are evaluating the plan with.

"Obviously, if we bought services instead of running them we would lose a great deal of control in the decision-making process," Williams said.

An independent auditor is currently analyzing the cost differences of the alternatives, Williams said. The decision won't be finalized for several months, he said.

The tentative Riverfront Research Park schedule calls for approval of a master site plan in January.

The plant has 15 employees, and Williams assured the employees that if the plant is eliminated, they would be hired by the Eugene Water and Electric Board or kept by the University, Hill said.

Designers want to move the steam plant for two reasons, Williams said. One, the plant and hog fuel pile beside it occupy a large space that could be

developed and two, the plant and fuel pile are eyesores.

But Hovling and Hill believe there is another reason the plant may be eliminated.

"EWEB would like to get their hands on the state coffers," Hovling said. "We're their competition. We're a thorn in their side. EWEB just plain can't beat us cost wise, and they know it."

According to Hill, it would cost the University \$1 million more a year to buy energy from EWEB because the University's plant is newer and more efficient than EWEB's plant, he said. Production of 1,000 pounds of steam costs the University plant \$4.65 but costs EWEB more than \$6, he added.

Attempts to reach EWEB officials were unsuccessful Wednesday.

"EWEB would be interested in having the University as a customer, no doubt about that," Williams said. "But to imply that somehow that they are doing something behind the scenes of the master plan... I don't have any reason to believe that's true."

Controversy has surrounded the Riverfront Research Park since planning began on it.

The research park is expected to provide about 4,000 new jobs and about 1 million square feet of office space when the project is completed. But critics of the plan have said it will ruin the riverfront and may prove a financial disaster.