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Opponents speak out against parking structure

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Reporter

The controversial proposed parking structure on Alder Street between 16th and 17th Avenues was one of the projects presented at the University Planning Office's open house Monday afternoon in the EMU Fir Room.

The tentative plan for the parking garage indicates that it will house 585 parking spaces, and all construction costs will be covered by user fees, according to Campus Planning Committee Chair Michael Ellis.

"It is visiting on the auto-users the true cost of bringing them (cars) to campus," Ellis said. "They will be paying for the entire costs of the structure."

Ellis said traffic studies show that Alder Street is the most suitable campus site for such a large parking structure.

"The amount of traffic is not going to overload the neighborhood as some people think," Ellis said.

"If we do it right, it will create a very pleasant environment in that area."

However, many Alder Street area residents believe the plan is "one of the worst solutions to parking needs as far as safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in the area are concerned," according to West University Neighborhood Association Chairman Brad Perkins.

"I don't want to have it happen that the thing is built now and find out later it was an incredible safety hazard," Perkins said.

Ellis said the planning office must consider other people besides pedestrians and bicyclists. "If you make it pedestrian friendly you are not making it auto-user friendly, and auto-users have

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Courtesy graphic

The above proposed parking structure on Alder Street between 16th and 17th Avenues has received much heat from opponents.

Citizens and board battle EWEB future

By Hon Walker
Emerald Reporter

Utility board members and local residents debated the future of the Eugene Water and Electric Board's energy conservation program at a crowded public meeting held at the EWEB headquarters on Monday night.

The Bonneville Power Administration will be reducing funding for EWEB's conservation programs in 1990. Since 1982, the BPA has covered costs of most programs, including weatherization of local buildings.

During that time, EWEB has helped weatherize more than 22,000 area homes, at an annual savings of \$2 million in lower heating costs for the community, said EWEB Conservation Manager Mat Northway.

Most customers expressed support for continuing the conservation programs, even if it were to mean higher utility rates.

"If we prepare now, we'll be in a better position later," said Brian Hoop, director of the Solar Energy Center at the University. "U of O students, as members of the Eugene community, are concerned about our long-range future. Our students are willing to pay more now," Hoop said, to keep utility rates low through upcoming years.

Mike White, coordinator for the Low Income Energy Assistance program, said that weatherization would provide long-term benefits for local residents, especially those at lower economic levels. He recommended that the board adopt the most aggressive conservation plan proposed.

EWEB is considering six conservation program levels, the most aggressive of which would maintain the current conservation level but would result in a 4.8 percent electrici-

ty rate increase. The legal minimum plan could operate within the current EWEB budget but would result in a cutback in conservation plans.

According to Northway, EWEB recommends a plan in which rates would increase 2.6 percent, or about \$1.25 a month for an average customer. This option, however, would reduce the amount of assistance for home weatherization while offering other conservation alternatives.

EWEB client Marian Frank praised the board's commitment to conservation programs, and said: "It would be unwise to cut support for weatherization, especially when Bonneville wants to cut support."

University architecture professor and former EWEB commissioner John Reynolds agreed, saying: "Let's have the courage and the foresight now to raise rates a little, to ensure future energy resources."

Conservation efforts provide jobs and greatly benefit the local economy, said Susan Jakabosky, president of the Willamette Valley Solar Energy Association.

"We encourage the board to go beyond conservation and consider renewable (energy) sources such as solar energy," she said.

Not everyone at the meeting, however, agreed that rates should be raised to continue conservation efforts.

William Eaton of Eugene blasted the board, saying: "Your thinking stinks. It's pure, unadulterated socialism."

He said that while he did not quarrel with the goal of conserving energy, it was unfair to impose a rate hike on all utility clients regardless of their needs.

The meeting drew about 80 community members.



'Fraidy cat

Guatama, a 10-week-old kitten, seems unsure of the safety of University sophomore Andy Bell's shoulder. Bell bought the cat at the Willamette Valley Folk Fest.

Photo by James Marks

Leaders support offshore drilling ban

By Don Peters
Emerald Associate Editor

House and Senate Majority Leaders David Dix (D-Eugene) and Bill Bradbury (D-Bandon) announced Monday morning at a Capitol news conference a plan to ban offshore oil and gas drilling within three miles of the Oregon coast.

Legislative Update

The plan was included in a series of amendments to Senate Bill 1152, which passed 29-0 on the Senate floor May 8 and had its first hearing in front of the House Environment and Energy Committee Monday.

The panel gave the amended bill a "do pass" recommendation, and it will now appear on the House floor sometime within the next two weeks.

Originally, SB1152 required certain state agencies to coordinate ocean research with other states. Now, the bill will include the three-mile

limit on offshore drilling.

The amendments have already received support from high places, including Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and Rep. Ron Cease (D-Portland), chairman of the House Environment Committee.

Dix, who also sits on the environment panel, said the negatives of offshore drilling far outweigh any possible gains.

"The fishing industry is a \$240 million industry in this state," he said. "All the oil deposits off the Oregon and Washington coasts would only provide the country with about three days worth of oil. It just isn't worth it."

Goldschmidt, who attended the press conference, said protection of the state's living resources was a "top priority."

"We have invested far too much in the tourist industry to have oil platforms off our coast," Dix added.

Dix went on to say the state might try to increase its jurisdiction to 12 miles off the coast. Current law gives states only a three-mile jurisdiction, but an executive order from former Presi-

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