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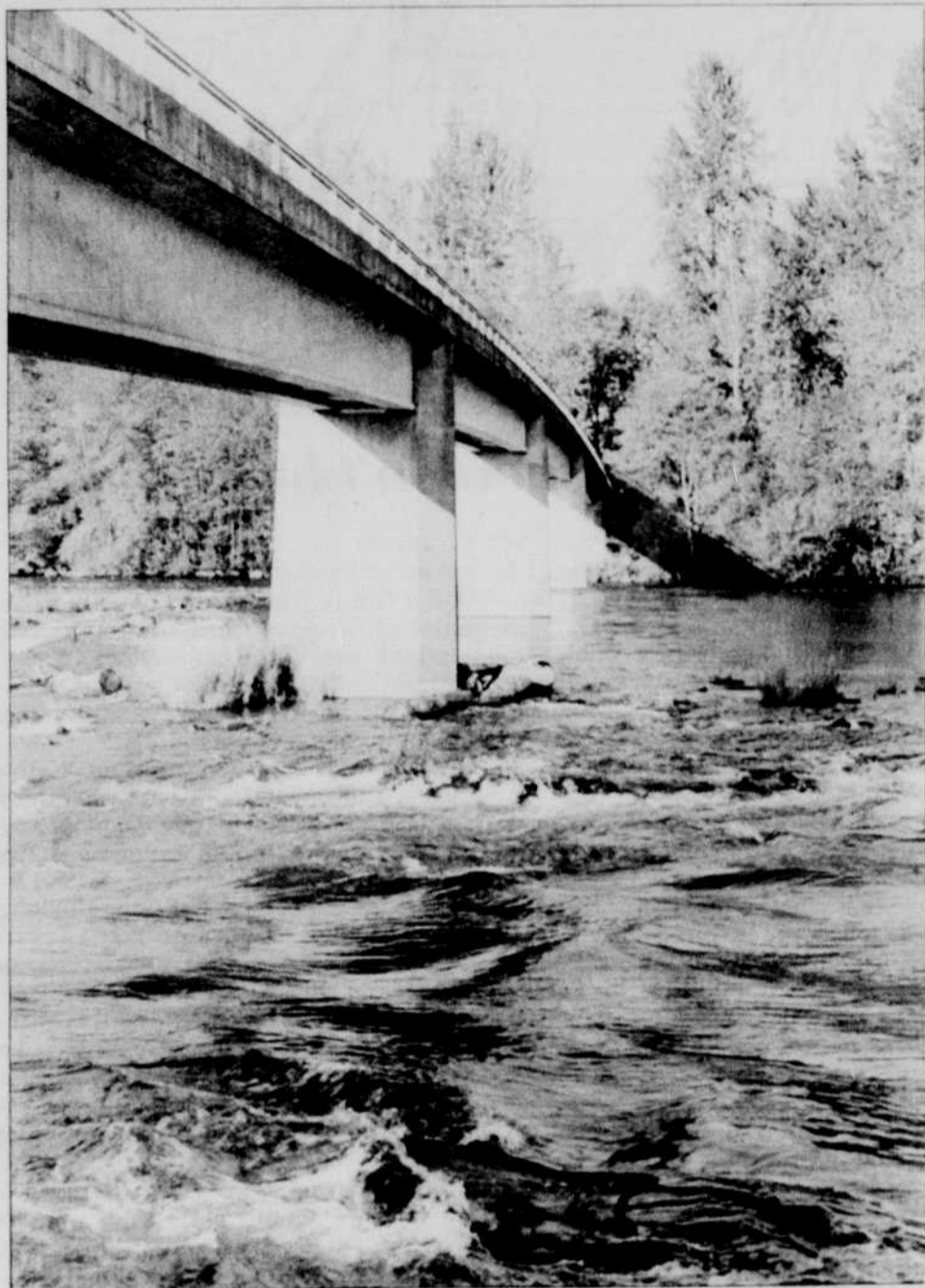


Photo by Steve Card

Hoping to keep the Willamette River free from increased hazardous substances, research park opponents have filed a ballot initiative to protect the riverfront area.

Group pushes initiative Willamette may get protection

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

A Eugene group has filed a revised initiative measure that aims to protect the Willamette River, and the future of the Riverfront Research Park could be affected if the measure passes.

University law student Dan Stotter and Citizens for Responsible Land Use filed the initiative Nov. 1 and will collect signatures to place it on the May city ballot.

If the measure is approved, it would prohibit the use of hazardous and toxic substances within 500 feet of the Willamette River in city limits.

"If they go through with the research park, we want to ensure that the recreational and natural resource uses there could continue," Stotter said.

The research park is a joint enterprise by the University, the city of Eugene and the Utah-based Institutional Development Associates.

Stotter said current lease agreements for the proposed 67-acre research park contain no language regulating the materials that would be used for research.

Of particular concern, Stotter said, was the possibility that radiation, dioxins, solvents, chemicals and by-products used in the area could contaminate the river.

The initiative would amend the city charter to prohibit uses of hundreds of federally recognized hazardous and toxic substances, as well as any substances designated as hazardous by the Eugene City Council.

The moratorium would target future activity along the river. Existing uses of toxic chemicals would not be affected by the measure, nor would maintenance and construction activities, Stotter said.

One reason for filing the initiative is to monitor the tenants that will occupy

the research park, Stotter said.

"The history of the Silicon Valley area of California shows that high technology can have a very significant (environmental) effect," he said. "We want to have none of that toxic impact on the Willamette River."

The future of the river could depend on which companies move into the park, Stotter said. No definite tenants have yet been secured.

"It's completely going to depend on the types of tenants. If we take the position that we'll take anybody who has the money, we'll be in trouble," Stotter said.

"There has been no evidence that we'll take clean industry over those that deal with hazardous or toxic substances."

The initiative is an updated version of a measure filed last December. The group did not collect signatures at that time because they were awaiting a decision from the Land Use Board of Appeals, Stotter said.

On Oct. 10 LUBA rejected the appeal filed jointly by Stotter, geography professor and department head Al Urquhart and Randy Prince of Eugene. Stotter said he decided not to pursue any further appeals.

"We were losing track of the big issue of what land uses are acceptable on the Willamette River," he said.

Stotter said the prolonged battle with LUBA followed a technical and legal path which strayed from his original intent.

"We see this approach as being effective whether or not they build a research park," Stotter said.

"I'm absolutely in favor of a compromise with the Riverfront Research Park."

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Stopping dorm theft Key lies in prevention

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

Taking measures to prevent theft may be an inconvenience for students, but residents of the University's dormitories are as much at risk as any member of the community.

To encourage students to protect their property as well as themselves, University Housing and the Office of Public Safety are working together to provide a safe environment for the almost 3,000 students who live in the dorms.

Suzie Hunter, crime prevention officer for the public safety office, emphasized the importance of residents being responsible for locking the doors of their rooms.

"Lock your dorm door at all times, even if you go down the hall to use the phone," Hunter said. "You

need to take the time to take precautionary measures, or you'll be a crime victim.

"Students have a lot of things that just disappear," she said. "Students are a target. They often bring a lot of expensive things with them to campus."

Hunter said dorm residents should engrave their names and driver's license numbers on expensive items such as cameras, stereos and televisions. Engravers are available for free and information is available at campus security.

The dorms are considered a higher target area for bike theft, Hunter said. Although it may be inconvenient, Hunter recommends that students keep their bikes in their rooms.

Perhaps the best service campus security offers dorm

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Brand tours campus in wheelchair

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

University President Myles Brand and Provost Norman Wessells discovered yesterday afternoon what it was like to wheel to class.

However, they didn't get there by bicycle.

Both administrators toured campus in wheelchairs, led by ASUO assistant University affairs coordinator Tiana Tozer, to heighten their awareness of the problems disabled students have getting around campus and into buildings and classrooms.

"I started formulating the idea last year when I couldn't get into Johnson Hall — it really disturbed me," Tozer said about guiding Brand around campus in a wheelchair.

Tozer was forced to use a wheelchair after a car driven by a drunk driver crashed into her vehicle a year-and-a-half ago.

The tour started outside Johnson Hall and moved down 13th Avenue after Brand and Wessells were given a short in-



Photo by Andre Ranieri

ASUO assistant University affairs coordinator Tiana Tozer gives President Myles Brand a lesson on the difficulties of operating wheelchairs.

roduction on operating wheelchairs.

They then wheeled to Fenton Hall, which is classified as wheelchair accessible, where Tozer pointed out several problems wheelchair users regularly

encounter.

The first stop was 110 Fenton, which Tozer said was the only wheelchair accessible room in the building.

This accessibility, however,

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