## Toxics Continued from Page 5

along to former Eugene mayor Brian Obie and City Manager Mike Gleason.

Kenneth Coombs, a vice president at IDA, said that Williams 'told us that (the soccer field) had been a dumping site, but cleanup operations), we will just have to be ready to wait." he said.

"At the time (1985) I didn't gauge the problem as serious enough to address." Williams said in defending his decision there was no hazard because the ground over the burial sites was to remain undisturbed, he said. When it became clear that holes would be dug for building construction, he said he decided to act.

"It's hard to get the benefit of the doubt in these kinds of issues," Williams said, "I hope people will withhold judgment until we get the report and we can see if I was right or wrong.

Williams' office first went public about the dumping at the Riverfront Research Park site in November, when he told the press about "rumors" of waste from the University chemistry labs and Physical Plant being buried in pits under what is now a popular soc-

After initially refusing. Williams released a number of memos and other documents when Hoop and others made a written request. Some of the documents revealed that the administration knew conclusively about the dumping since at least mid-1985.

shift containers including cans and glass jugs

Explosions and fires resulted from chemical interaction several times, requiring emergency response from the Eugene Fire Department.

The number of chemicals known or suspected" of being buried near the river was revealed to be more extensive than originally admitted. The

I hope people will withhold judgment until we get the report and we can see if I was right or wrong.'

— Dan Williams

not for what." IDA is committed to the project no matter what. Coombs said.

If there is a delay (due to

to withhold the dumping information for more than four

It was his judgment that

When asked about the apparent contradiction between the documents and his characterization of the waste as a "rumor." Williams told a Register Guard reporter that his word choice had been "unfortu-

The documents revealed that chemical wastes were dumped at the site a number of times between 1965 and 1972, and that the waste was buried in make-

total volume was estimated to be up to 300 gallons.

The L.R. Squire company of Portland has been contracted to conduct an environmental assessment of the site to determine the actual extent of any remaining waste at the site. The initial phase will take several months and cost over \$50,000, company representatives said.

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According to Dan Stotter, facts were

kept secret to make it easier for the Uni-

versity to move forward with development

of the Riverfront Research Park.

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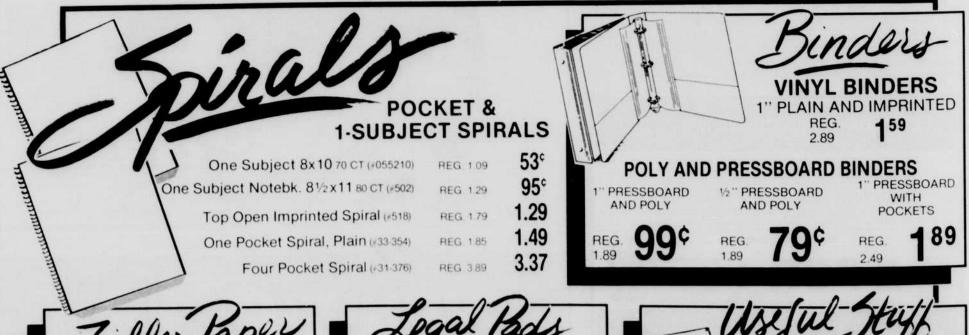
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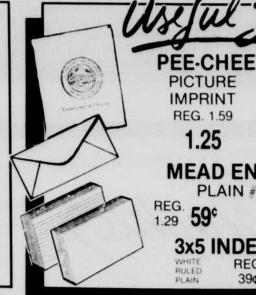
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