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**HISTORIC**  
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proposals, said individual property owners will receive tax breaks, flexibility in building codes and access to renovation loans.

"All of that is saying, 'OK, we've recognized that your building is real important, here's an incentive to try and preserve (the building),' " Taylor said.

By encouraging the preservation of buildings, the nomination will help the West University neighborhood retain its present character, Taylor said.

"It will be a nice place to live and not just a place completely covered with generic, square-box apartments that turns into a student ghetto," she said.

Taylor said the nomination will not benefit all property owners, but it will be easier for older homes to be listed on the National Register. Property owners will be able to show the worth of their building in the context of the history of the whole neighborhood, rather than having to prove their worth individually. Already, research has begun on the Sigma Nu house and two other buildings.

Kimberly Lakin, who helped prepare the proposal, described it as a large project "that involved compiling a lot of information that had been written and researched over the years."

Historic preservation and architecture students helped compile the information in a class called "historic districts" during fall term. The class was taught by Lakin, Kimberly Demuth, of Demuth Glick Consultants in Portland, and histor-



Photo by Jeff Paslay  
The Gamma Phi Beta house, 1021 Hilyard St., is one of three greek houses in the West University neighborhood to be specifically placed on the National Register as a historic site.

ic preservation graduate student Paula Cook, a registered architect who prepared the Alpha Phi house nomination.

"The class was actually (supposed) to get the Millrace area a historic district," said Elisabeth Perlman, an architecture graduate student in the class. "What we ended up doing is that two to three people together researched buildings along the Millrace that stood up as a National Register building."

"Some of the owners were real hesitant because people have these preconceptions about what it means to be on the register," she said. "Some people were afraid to have them researched."

For example, the national headquarters of the Chi Psi fraternity, which owns the Chi Psi house, sent a letter to SHPO and the city of Eugene that opposed the nomination. However, SHPO does not need ap-

proval by an owner to put a building on the National Register.

The multiple-property nomination emphasizes the historically unique qualities of the West University neighborhood, which revolve around the Millrace and the University. Unlike in a historic district, all the buildings in a multiple-property nomination do not need to be historically significant.

The large greek houses were often designed by important architects such as Walter Wilcox, the first head of the architecture department; Ellis Lawrence, the founder of the architecture department and John Hunzicker, Eugene's first registered architect.

Many of the early fraternities and sororities were demolished or converted to apartments, but many of the surviving houses are in excellent condition.

**DA VINCI**  
Continued from Page 1



**Stunt skating**

Sophomore psychology student Eric Zimmerman shows off his skateboarding moves in the parking lot between Education and the music building in Wednesday's sunshine. Today's forecast calls for partly sunny skies and highs in the 70s.

Photo by Eric Evans

automatic thinking." Da Vinci knew Michelangelo but disliked him. La Russo said da Vinci saw Michelangelo as a man of "speaking and action out of reflex, not reflection." da Vinci, by contrast, would often sit in pastoral field and sketch pictures of clouds or horses. He often lived alone feeling said La Russo that "he who is alone possesses himself completely."

La Russo has studied da Vinci for the last half century. His interest was sparked in da Vinci because his mother's family came from an area in Italy where da Vinci owned some land and frequented. He grew up hearing about da Vinci and began to study him.

"Leonardo is one of the greatest and most admired geniuses in history and has been honored for his marvelous works of art, his acute humanistic and scientific insight and mechanical inventiveness, all of which paved the way for an improved and enjoyable existence," La Russo said.

"Leonardo is not the renaissance man, he is instead the impossible man. It is impossible to believe all the things he did, impossible to believe his depth, impossible to believe his width, impossible to believe the things he knew," La Russo said.

He hopes that play will "show an unseen side, it is an inward search into Leonardo."

La Russo will perform again tonight at 8 p.m. at the Robinson Theater.