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Garden variety fun: Residents rent plots

By June Williams
Emerald Contributor

Having a garden is unthinkable for many students. The cramped housing students generally can afford leaves little room for even a flowerpot.

However, Eugene Parks and Recreation has a solution for all apartment dwellers with green thumbs.

The Community Gardens program, started in the early 1970s, allows residents to rent garden plots on city-owned land.

Chia Lian Chen, a physics student working on his doctorate at the University, has a large plot in the community garden outside Westmoreland Family Housing in west Eugene.

"It's a very good idea for Eugene," Chen said. "I do it mainly for fun, but the fresh vegetables are good, too. You can supply a whole summer's worth of vegetables. I haven't shopped for two months."

Chen uses organic methods, which program organizers strongly encourage. Chemical fertilizers may be used, but chemical pesticides are prohibited.

No experience is required. Before this year, Chen had grown only potted plants in his native Taiwan.

After Chen and his wife started the garden in early April, he found out having a garden means a lot of work, especially in Eugene.

"The soil was very hard at first, and the garden hasn't been too good because of the cold spring weather," he said.

Working on his garden almost every day in the spring paid off for Chen, who now can relax while harvesting tomatoes, strawberries, peppers and kale.

"It's almost as expensive as you'd buy in Safeway, in terms of labor, but we enjoy just being out here," he said.

Gardens outside of student housing complexes are the most popular, said Mardi Klotz, receptionist for the River House, where the garden program is based.

"The gardens by Amazon and Westmoreland housing are usually full," she said. "About half the spaces are available in the spring."

Chen stood in line to get his plot, but Irina Wilborn, who also lives in Westmoreland, could only get into the Amazon garden. Wilborn is happy to have a plot anywhere.

"I like to work with the soil. If you're overstressed, it's so relaxing," she said.

Wilborn is from the Soviet Union, where she had to grow vegetables out of necessity, but she now gardens for enjoyment.

Wilborn said she spent more money on the garden than she would have buying her own produce, but she doesn't mind. "Of course you lose money, but it's fun just to be in the open air and get a suntan," she said.

All unreserved plots are available for rental every spring. Small or large plots are offered in each of five gardens around Eugene. A full plot, 20 feet by 30 feet, costs \$36 per year, with a \$10 deposit. Half



Photo by Jeff Paasley

Eugene resident Chris Harding tends to his green bean vines in the plot he rents in community gardens near River House in north Eugene. The city operates five such gardens, including two near campus family housing.

plots are 20 feet by 15 feet and rent for \$25, with a \$5 deposit.

For a fee of \$7, gardeners can have access to a shed full of tools.

For the budget-conscious, plots can be rented at half price

after July 1.

David Cotherin, manager of Down to Earth garden center in Eugene, said many crops can still be planted late in the year.

"There's a lot you can do," he said. "A lot of fall crops like

broccoli, cauliflower, kale, fall peas and garlic can be planted. Garlic actually does better in the fall."

For more information on community gardens, contact the River House at 687-5329.

University rapped for rights violations

Law student's records wrongfully disclosed

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

A four-year conflict between the University and a former law student took a new turn last week when the U.S. Department of Education ruled that the University twice released confidential academic records in 1987.

Former student Willy Bills filed a complaint with the department last fall claiming academic records protected by federal legislation were disclosed.

Bills was accused during the 1986-87 school year of paying a legal researcher to write a law school term paper for him. Bills was found guilty except for insanity for plagiarism.

Last week's education department ruling said law school Dean Maurice Holland erred in showing the plagiarized paper to two people in February 1987, before Bills' arrest. Holland showed the paper to the real author during a meeting in Holland's office, and to a Eugene police sergeant.

LeRoy Rooker, director of the Family Policy Compliance Office of the Department of Education, notified the University in a letter dated July 16 that both instances con-



Willy Bills

stituted violations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student's academic records.

The department cited two other violations, both regarding privacy rights. However, disciplinary action is not being pursued.

Alison Baker, executive assistant to University President Myles Brand, said she expects no internal repercussions from the ruling and considers the case closed.

Bills, however, said the case is not closed. Although his attorney, David Force, was unavailable for comment, Bills said they are "very seriously" discussing the possibility of filing a lawsuit.

"I hope this will give students on campus some belief in the legal system and their rights," Bills said. "I hope students will see that one person can effect change."

Bills claims that Holland went to the police in 1987 because of conflicts the two had had in the past and because of complaints Bills raised about conditions in the law school.

Holland did not return messages requesting comment Wednesday.

Also in last week's ruling, the education department said the University violated the educational privacy act by selling the names and addresses of about 500 law students, including Bills, to a Lake Oswego data systems firm.

Finally, a fourth violation had occurred when the University disclosed the education records of another former student at an open disciplinary hearing in April 1989. Although the student had orally waived his rights to non-disclosure, he did not submit written consent, as is required by FERPA.

Holland was informed of his responsibilities under FERPA in 1989 after the Depart-

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Confession

Milwaukee police say Jeffrey L. Dahmer, 31, who was arrested Tuesday after mutilated bodies were found in his apartment, confessed to the killings and will cooperate with police in identifying the victims.

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Music Review

The Meat Puppets exploit a wide variety of musical styles on their newest release, *Forbidden Places*, which has something for everyone.

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Athletes Excel

Oregon hammer thrower Scott McGee and 3,000-meter runner Liz Wilson each took first place at the U.S. Olympic Festival.

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