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UNIVERSITY

Fate of Amazon to be decided

By Martina Joffe
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

University officials and members of the Oregon Legislature will reveal a plan of action tonight at a meeting and news conference regarding the much-contested tearing down of Amazon Family Housing.

The meeting will be in the Amazon Family Housing complex at 2307 Patterson St., Apt. Nos. 2 and 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Sources within the University administration said the University is in the process of re-evaluating its relationship with Berkeley architect Christopher Alexander.

"It is clear to us that the cost we've been looking at for Amazon is too high," said Michael Eyster, director of University Housing. "We cannot continue to consider a plan with costs as high as the plan we've been developing with CES-T & E."

CES is Alexander's architecture firm, the Center for Environmental Structure and T & E is Thallon & Edrington, a Eugene-based architecture firm.

Eyster said the meeting has been in the works with Amazon students for a couple of weeks.

The original contractual agreement Alexander signed with the University required construction costs and the Amazon first phase to be \$39 per

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— Eileen Traylor
student organizer

square foot.

Construction costs at the 18th Avenue and Agate Street project are currently at \$69 per square foot and Amazon is projected at \$79 per square foot.

H.P. Barnhart, University Housing director from 1949-80, calculated the total costs at more than \$100 per square foot for 18th and Agate.

Family student tenants are still hoping Amazon can be saved from demolition. The students are working on arranging for a structural engineer to independently evaluate Amazon.

"We are still guarded in our optimism that the University will be able to provide low-cost housing for families, which allows access to education," said Eileen Traylor, one of the student organizers.

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LAW

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"This is a huge leap," he said. The school made a conscious effort to recruit more women, said Chuck O'Kelley, associate dean of the school.

"We were very interested in achieving a gender balance in our first-year class," O'Kelley said, "and at the school in general. But we tried to recruit every high-quality student. We were very lucky in our recruiting."

The larger number of women at the law school will cause subtle changes, which will be interesting and fun to watch, Frohnmayer said.

Female professors have noticed that certain points of view have emerged in classes this year that weren't as easy to coax out of students in the past, and women have seemed to be more comfortable in the classroom than before, the dean said.

"I expect that in some ways, classroom discussion will be more diverse, and more lively," Frohnmayer said. "The more lively the classroom, the more diverse it is, the more important the learning experience is."

During recruitment it helped that a third of the faculty members are women. Offering courses

such as Women and Law, Family Law and courses related to underrepresented minorities also helped, O'Kelley said.

Although resources for higher education in Oregon have dwindled because of 1990's Ballot Measure 5, O'Kelley said high-quality law students still come to the law school because the measure caused the administrators "to be more efficient, creative and work harder at fund-raising, and the students see that."

More than 70 percent of in-state students admitted to the law school chose to enroll, and the relatively low price of the school's tuition is a big factor in that, he said.

"When you compare the UO law school to an out-of-state or a private law school, the intelligent student says, 'I can get an outstanding, quality education here for half the price,'" O'Kelley said.

The highest-ever GPA of the first-year students will make a difference in recruiting students in the future, Frohnmayer said.

"This is just kind of proof of the pudding that this law school is a real magnet for the region — and even the country — and it should make recruiting for next year's class just very exciting," he said.

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