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UNIVERSITY

Amazon tenants make housing demands

By Martina Joffe
 For the Oregon Daily Emerald

University student tenants and activists pressured three Oregon legislators at a meeting Sunday for support to stop the demolition of Amazon Family Housing.

Sens. Bill Dwyer and Peter Sorenson and Rep. Cynthia Wooten heard a prepared statement read by Nancy Forrest of the Amazon Community Tenants Council. The students demanded the following:

- An immediate moratorium on Amazon's scheduled demolition.
- A moratorium on evacuation of current residents.
- The firing of project architect Christopher Alexander.
- The creation of a clear and legal public policy for low-income family housing and a legal definition of low-cost.
- Greater student involvement and control of housing policy and governance.

Wooten said that the University erred by not having an attorney look at the architect's contract before signing it. Wooten also said

the contract was not drafted by an attorney. The contract involved millions of dollars of bond money.

Dwyer said he was angry and weary from dealing with the University administration, and that his original intent was not to tear down existing housing, but to create additional low-cost housing.

"I don't want Timberline Lodge here," he said. "I didn't choose the architect. They did. And they didn't pick the cheapest one either."

Dwyer said he believed that the same type of big-business pressure groups responsible for moving the University's environmental law clinic off campus were exerting subtle pressures on the University to not build the housing.

Wooten disagreed that political pressure is being exerted by big business in this particular case, and added that groups within the University should not blame each other, but should work together for resolution.

Sorenson said certain opponents of higher education were anxious to see infighting

within the University community. The legislators seemed to agree that this wouldn't be good for the University's ability to raise funds in Salem.

Wooten said that she believed the University should cut its losses with the architect, even if it cost a few hundred thousand dollars. She also advised students that it would be fair to ask the University for a one-year reprieve from tearing down Amazon.

Sorenson was concerned that Amazon shouldn't be demolished without a sound plan for reconstruction. Sorenson actually lived in Amazon himself as a child while his father worked on his master's degree at the University.

"If the University keeps getting more expensive to go to, it will price low and moderate income people out of education," Sorenson said.

The legislators all agreed to help the students as much as they could in their aims. Wooten said that she wanted both the students and administration to make concessions.



Puddles the duck

FROM THE PAST:
 The University began using a duck as its mascot in 1908. By the 1930s the duck had been named Puddles and changed many times as a freehand character. In 1947, Puddles retired and a oral contract with Walt Disney was formed to use Donald Duck as the school mascot. These drawings were taken from the 1946 Oregon yearbook.

English department proposes suspension of minor

By Eric Buckhalter
 For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The English department is proposing to suspend its minor program because departmental resources are needed for the increasing number of English majors.

The proposal to suspend the minor will be sent to the Curriculum Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences. Richard Stein, the head of the English department, believes the proposal is likely to pass.

"The suspension of the minor is a sad necessity. I don't think this is a good solution, but a necessary, unfortunate solution," Stein said.

The proposal is a choice on where to set some limits and do the least damage, he said.

"The proposed suspension is based on numbers. We have more students than we have the resources to support," Stein said. "We now teach more students than any other school or college on the campus, and our budget does not grow in response to that. Student enroll-

ment has grown geometrically for a long time and faculty numbers have remained constant."

The English department has already advertised the suspension of the minor. Students who want an English minor must complete the necessary course work and graduate by the end of the 1994 summer term. Signs are posted in the English department's office, and English professors informed students enrolled in their classes.

Stein said the department had to advertise the suspension as early as possible to give students a full year's notice and help students make academic choices.

The English department designated a deadline for its minor because a substantial number of students who formally apply for a minor do so in the term that they are going to graduate.

"We chose not to hurt those students who had not formally applied for the minor but had been dutifully been working toward it," Stein said.

Because of the devastation brought to some University pro-

'The proposed suspension is based on numbers. We have more students than we have the resources to support.'

- Richard Stein
 English Department Head

grams by 1990's Ballot Measure 5, many students have gone to other schools, colleges and departments at the University. Faculty numbers do not increase as student numbers rise because of budget limitations.

The sociology department has also proposed to suspend its minor program to better accommodate sociology majors. The faculty, like that of the English department's, is not large enough to support the growing number of students.

Bob O'Brien, the head of the sociology department, said a suspension of the minor program is the best way to keep class sizes down and concentrate on majors.

"It is difficult to provide a quality education for our majors.

In this tough choice, it is more important to serve our majors' needs," O'Brien said. "We understand what the English department is doing. The growth of our enrollment is up 70 percent from 1985, and our faculty is not large enough to support it."

Stein said he is sympathetic to English majors who are having trouble enrolling in the classes they need to graduate.

"We must choose to support our majors. It's a bad situation where a choice has to be made at all," Stein said. "If resources improve or if student demand drops then we would like to reinstate the minor. We are suspending it so that any time we can see our way to do it, we can turn it right back on."