

New home combines energy efficiency with low cost

By Lia Saliccia
Oregon Daily Emerald

The dedication of a completed "super energy efficient" house in Springfield heralded a possible new trend in energy-conserving, low-income housing. The house was designed to meet the Bonneville Power Administration's long-term Super Good Cents energy standards.

The project, which had a goal of building a house that simultaneously met the Bonneville Power Administration's long-term energy standards and lower-than-average building costs, joined the efforts of the University's Center for Housing Innovation, Goldenridge Construction Co. and St. Vincent de Paul. The house will be rented to a low-income family by St. Vincent de Paul.

Terry MacDonald, executive director of Lane County's St. Vincent de Paul, said that projects like this are steps toward creating "an inclusive society where all people can participate in the American dream."

The house, a two-story, three-bedroom with two bathrooms, uses 40 percent less energy than a comparable structure that meets Oregon building codes, but costs less than a conventional frame house built to the same standards. G.Z. Brown, from the Center for Housing Innovation at the University, explained the innovations which combined high-performance with lower costs.

One such innovation is the stressed skin insulation panels, refined by University

researchers. The panels don't have studs in them like most houses; rather, they are built from boards around an inner, Styrofoam-like core. Electrical wiring can be placed inside this core. The result of stressed skin insulation paneling is reduced heat loss.

Because this type of paneling can cost more, the research and building teams cut the panels carefully so that corners cut off of pieces used on one side of the house could be used on the other.

U.S. Representative Pete DeFazio said that "federal tax dollars well spent" went into the project. He ceremonially cut the large ribbon that wrapped around the circumference of the house.

Deputy Assistant of the U.S. Department of Energy, John Milhorne, said that he sees "good things coming out of Oregon," and De Fazio hinted that research partnerships such as this may set an example of building low-cost, high-efficiency housing specific to climates and conditions in communities all over the country.

Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette said that the city was happy to waive the building fees and purchase the land for the house, and that he looked forward to partnerships producing more low-cost and energy efficient housing in the future.

MacDonald said that St. Vincent de Paul will choose the low-income family that will reside in the house from a list of applicants and based on their median income. Non-traditional families will also be considered.



Michael Shindler/Emerald
The University Center for Housing Innovation designed this low-cost, energy efficient home as a research project that will also provide a home to a low-income family.

Student Bar Association to receive funds

By Edward Klopfenstein
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Student Senate approved \$600 in loans and outright aid to the Student Bar Association (SBA) last Thursday so the group's president can attend an Aug. 3 conference sponsored by the American Bar Association.

The Senate also approved the shift of about \$1,000, left over from KWVA's 1993-94 budget, to the radio station's current budget.

The KWVA request was approved unanimously.

Senate members did not consider a \$3,220 request by the Black Student Union, which would have been used to purchase a computer, because no BSU representative attended the meeting.

By phone Monday, Zeenab Johnson, of the BSU, said she could not make the meeting because of classes and will present the request at the Senate's next meeting.

In other Senate news, ASUO President Leslie Warren and Vice Provost for Academic Support and Student Services Gerard Moseley said in separate interviews that they would approve a \$15,000 over-realized account allocation to the Child Care Task Force.

The money will pay off a loan received from the Incidental Fee Committee last spring that was made to offset a budget shortfall.

If the officials didn't approve the allocation, about 25 fewer student families would have received a Task Force subsidy, which can pay up to half of daycare costs.

According to the revised Clark Document, the

operating document for student government, both officials must approve allocations from the over-realized account, which is student fees paid by more than the fall enrollment estimate.

Warren, who originally made the request to the Senate, said that as of Monday, she is still waiting for official notification from the Senate saying that the group approved the \$15,000 request.

Warren said she needs that confirmation before acting on the Senate approval.

Concerning the SBA, Katrina Brown, the group's president, originally requested over \$1,000 so she could attend this year's ABA Law Student Division Assembly, to be held in New Orleans August 3 through August 8.

The annual event is usually covered by fundraising or grants from the law school, but this year, no such money was available, Brown said.

The ASUO Executive representative Kristen McCowan said the ASUO was concerned over the budget and recommended that the Senate should only pay the registration fee.

Senator Suh-Shyun Yeoh motioned to accept the ASUO recommendation but the motion died for lack of a second.

Senator Martin Fisher also motioned to accept the ASUO recommendation but add an \$813 loan so the SBA would only have to pick up the \$300 difference.

Senator David Reed seconded the motion, but it later failed by a vote of one to three.

The final motion, giving the SBA a \$400 loan and a \$200 grant, was approved unanimously 4-0-0.

CODES

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crimination and sexual harassment are lumped together" in the same set of codes, Drescher said.

She said that with sexual harassment, there are more developed law and higher standards that exist. The University could have adopted the same standards for racial discrimination, but didn't.

The key difference is that enforcement of the racial discrimination codes rests upon the perpetrator's intent to hurt or harass the victim, while sexual harassment codes adopt the "reasonable woman" standard. In other words, an alleged perpetrator of sexual harassment can receive punishment even if he did not intend to harass the victim, as long as his actions were perceived as harassment by a reasonable woman.

Swan said, "What we set out to do was amend the sexual harassment rule," so that the grievance process for all types of harassment is extended to 365 days, and that the discrepancies in wording of the sexual and racial intimidation rules "doesn't change the way (racial harassment cases) get investigated."

Drescher is unhappy with another aspect of the rule concerning sexual harassment arising from course materials. She said if a biology professor shows slides of the female anatomy, and slips in a crude joke, according to the rule the incident would be termed harassment only if the unwanted behavior should "opportunistically re-occur" and only with "clear and convincing evidence to inflict harm."

Drescher, who said the above is a classic example of discrimination against women in medical schools, said that under University codes, a professor could inflict that type of harassment and then get off the hook by saying he did not intend to inflict harm.

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