

■ COMMUNITY

Professor, students design plans for Ferry Street area

Ben Moebius
Oregon Daily Emerald

A University professor and three students are working with the city to change the face of Eugene — literally.

Jerry Diethelm, a University landscape architecture professor, has been hired by the city as design consultant to review land use development along the Ferry Street Corridor.

Diethelm will guide a 16-member committee appointed by Mayor Ruth Bascom and is expected to report to the city council sometime in June. He has hired three University students part-time to assist

him in the project.

Peter Barrell, a graduate landscape architecture student; Megan Banks, a graduate planning and development student and Jack Johnson, an undergraduate landscape architecture student will help design models and presentations to visually support the ideas of the committee.

Diethelm worked with Barrell and Banks on the last Ferry Street Bridge proposal, Measure 20-23, which was defeated by voters in the November election.

Barrell said he hopes to focus on the north bank of the Ferry Street Corridor, which would include Coburg Road and

Centennial Boulevard. "That area is now very car-oriented. It's also very industrial," he said. "I hope to make it more bicycle-friendly and to introduce more plant life."

Barrell said his goal was to help produce a plan that would help the area around the Ferry Street bridge grow in a positive, healthy manner.

"This is a great experience," Barrell said. "We are, in a way, helping to shape the destiny of that area."

The committee is just beginning its work, according to Diethelm, and has only met two times so far. Diethelm said

the committee will pay close attention to the response of the last election and will try to include public input whenever it can.

Measure 20-23, which was defeated by over 6,000 votes, planned to replace the existing four-lane bridge with a new six-lane bridge, pedestrian lanes and fixed rail lanes. The estimated cost of the project was \$73 million.

Opponents of the plan claimed the city had not sufficiently studied the ways in which the proposed expansion would have affected traffic in other parts of the city.

■ POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department Feb. 13-19.

- Police responded Feb. 13 to the 1000 block of Patterson Street after multiple reports of students throwing snowballs "at anything that moved," according to police reports. As officers contacted the 30 to 60 students congregated in front of the University Inn, they were pelted with snowballs. When an officer approached two males involved in the melee, they tried to throw snowballs at him. The officer used pepper spray to deflect the attack.

- Two men, ages 28 and 31, were cited Feb. 16 for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana on the 1100 of Ferry Street.

- An 18-year-old male student was cited for sex abuse in the third degree Feb. 17 at Esslinger Hall. According to police reports, the suspect and victim were engaged in

water rescue practice when the suspect inappropriately touched the victim. The incident remains under investigation.

- An 18-year-old male student was cited for petty larceny Feb. 18 on the 1600 block of East 15th Avenue after police discovered a street sign belonging to the City of Eugene in his dorm room.

- A 21-year-old male student was arrested for assault in the fourth degree and theft of services Feb. 19 on the 1400 block of Alder Street. According to police reports, the suspect grabbed a bag of take-out food from a restaurant and left without paying. The manager pursued and a fight broke out.

- A 24-year-old man was cited for shoplifting Feb. 20 on the 1300 block of Alder Street. According to police reports, the suspect took two 40-ounce bottles of Olde English 800 beer without paying.

—Compiled by Joe Harwood

Many factors set insurance rates

Ben Moebius
Oregon Daily Emerald

For many students who are financially strapped, buying insurance for a car can be a somewhat frightening and mysterious process.

According to Roger Galka, who has been an insurance agent with American Automobile Association's Oregon office for 16 years, rates vary widely between companies and a variety of factors are used to determine insurance premiums.

Galka said most companies consider a few basic areas when deciding rates: driving record, type of vehicle, prior insurance history, age and sometimes grade point average.

He said college students can expect to pay more than older people because statistics used by insurance companies, called actuarial statistics, show that younger drivers are involved in more accidents.

Statistics show that men age 18-25 have more accidents than women of the same age, according to Galka. "The most significant drops in insurance rates

occur at age 21 and age 25," he said. "Women have smaller, more frequent drops at age 19, 21 and 23."

Actuarial statistics also show that students with a B average or better tend to be more responsible drivers, according to Ted Mayes, an insurance agent with Nationwide Insurance in Eugene.

"Some companies offer lower rates for 'trained drivers,' or those who have taken driver's education," Mayes said.

Insurance companies also consider a person's "stability" and the geographic area in which they live, Galka said.

"We look to see if a person has lived at the same address six months or more, for instance," he said. "And, although competition drives down rates in the Eugene-Springfield area, the rates are still a little bit cheaper in the outlying areas."

There are three kinds of insurance companies. Non-standard companies deal with drivers who have violations or no insurance history. Standard companies deal with those people who

have some insurance history and, maybe, a ticket or two. Preferred companies deal with long-time drivers who have good driving records.

Jan White, a compliance officer with the state's Insurance Division, said the structure of Oregon's vehicle insurance system allows for a lot of competition. "The companies provide their rates to the state for approval," she said, "but we do not set standard rates. We just review those rates that seem either too high or too low."

Galka said this differs from California, which is forced to keep premiums low because of Proposition 103, a law that standardizes insurance rates.

Galka said that the vehicle insurance rates in California are lower or comparable to rates in Eugene, partly because of Proposition 103.

"One piece of advice I would give to young people is to develop an insurance history," Galka said. "You may have to pay more initially, but in the long run it will be worth it."

Eugene City Council explores low-income housing options

Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene City Council formed an ad-hoc committee Wednesday to combat the city's current housing crisis. The committee will explore funding options for more low-income and affordable housing.

The committee was formed to enable more community involvement and input in finding funding options rather than placing a financing plan before the voters.

"I think it is the council's job to start a dialogue and work with the community to bring back a report of options," said councilwoman Nancy Nathanson.

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The committee will include Housing Policy Board members and three council members and will look for a plan to fund housing with \$1 million per year over the next 10 years.

Councilwoman Laurie Swanson-Gribkov was concerned about preventing the issue from getting buried by extending the plan from five years to 10 years.

"The tax environment is shifting on us rapidly and the community is changing," she said. "There may be different options available to us in five years."

Councilman Jim Torrey favored using a

committee to seek out options rather than simply putting a financing tax plan to a vote.

"I think this is the best way to solve the problem," he said. "[Putting it to a vote] would shift the focus from the [housing] issue to a political issue."

Councilwoman Barbara Keller also opposed pitting funds for housing against a real estate transfer tax.

"The housing issue itself has a lot of support in the community and I'd hate to see that drowned when put with a revenue string," she said.

Councilman Pat Farr was concerned

about rushing the issue at the polls.

"The true issue here is housing and if we move forward too quickly, we may lose credibility and the issue of housing may be lost," Farr said.

Nathanson said that there was a great need for more low-income and affordable housing and that a lack of housing leads directly to homelessness.

"There are impacts on people beyond a lack of housing," she said. "A lack of housing leads to tremendous stresses that are related to drug and alcohol abuse, family violence and an increase in criminal activity."

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■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Japanese Student Organization will meet today at 4 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room F. For more information, call 686-6253.

Asian/Pacific-American Student Union will meet today at 5 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4342.

University/Guatemala Sister University Project will meet tonight at 7 in Room 207 Chapman. For more information, call 984-2372.

RELIGION

Newman Center will have Mass and a social tonight at 9 at the Newman Center at 1850 Emerald St. For more information, call 346-4468.

MISCELLANEOUS

Southeast Asian Studies will have a brown bag talk today at 12:30 p.m. in Room 810 PLC. Ching-liang Chong will speak about "Authoritarianism as Expediency: the Group-oriented Singaporeans and their Socio-political Choices." For more information, call 346-1521.

Department of Germanic Languages will sponsor a "Deutsch-Amerikanischer Stammtisch" tonight at 8 at Track Town Pizzeria. For more information, call 346-4059 or 344-0748.

Oregon Humanities Center will have a speaker today at 4 p.m. in Room 225 Chiles Center. Michael S. Roth, Hartley Burr

Alexander Professor of Humanities at Scripps College, will talk about "The Past That Wounds: Memory Disorders in 19th Century France," and a reception will follow in Room 228 Chiles Center. For more information, call 346-3934.

MEChA Women's Center and Anthropology 172 will meet today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. Anita Rojas will lecture and have a discussion of midwifery and problems of birthing. For more information, call 346-3508.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance will sponsor a gay and bisexual men's drop-in group tonight at 6 at Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-3360.

University/Guatemala Sister University Project will show a film, *Homero*, tonight at 7 in IMC Room G. For more information, call 984-2372.

Environmental Studies Program will sponsor Satish Kuman, "Walking on Two Legs: Ecology and Spirituality Go Together," tonight at 7 in the EMU Fir Room. For more information, call 937-3351.

Black Student Union and African Students Association will sponsor "Intelligence and Race?" a video presentation and panel discussion, today at 5:30 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-4379.

Outdoor Program will meet for the noon video, *Warren Miller Ski Comedy*, today at noon in Room 37 EMU. For more information, call 346-4365.