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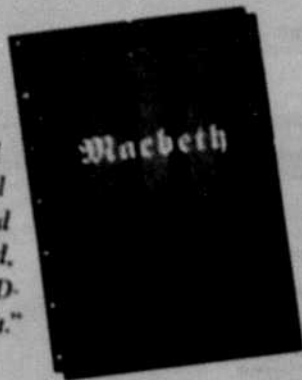
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## City leaders tour West University area

■ **SAFETY:** The group will present neighborhood residents' concerns to the Eugene City Council

By Melissa Lebahn  
Community Reporter

Eugene City leaders looked at home ownership, deterioration of housing facilities and areas of criminal activity, all of which affect the quality of life in the West University Neighborhood, by taking a walking tour of the area Monday afternoon.

Mayor Ruth Bascom, Eugene Senior Planner Teresa Bishow and Eugene Police Lt. Becky Hanson were just some of the approximately 20 people who attended the tour. They began their walk at the West University Neighborhood Center, located at 15th Avenue and Ferry Street.

From there they walked over to Mill Street and talked to local homeowner Thom Chambliss.

"This is the best neighborhood in town during the summer," Chambliss said. "During the summer, it's quiet and peaceful."

Because there are so many people here during the winter, crime increases in the area, he said.

Years ago, mostly homeowners lived in the area, but now rentals occupy the majority of the neighborhood.

"Without a lot of ownership in the neighborhood, it is hard to keep it clean," Chambliss said.

The group walked on, stopping every so often to look at alleys, nature and deterioration in the area.

The group also stopped at the West University Neighborhood Park, which has been closed since November because of heavy criminal activity in the area.

In 1979, the park was built with a small basketball court, a water faucet, a gazebo and bushes. About three years ago, the



Eugene city leaders toured the West University area on Monday to get a first hand look at the community's strengths and weaknesses.

community asked that the water faucet and gazebo be taken out and the brush be cut down because of some illegal activity in the park, which scared residents. The criminal activity slowed down but resumed last July. So the city closed the park.

Local resident Christina Ross, an environmental studies and biology major, is angry that the city closed the park. She said that as a resident, she would like to enjoy the park.

"There is a definite breakdown of dead-heads and drug dealers in the area," Ross said. "That is an unfortunate part of living in Eugene. If that's the problem, then they need to focus on that, but let people enjoy the park."

When the group came to the

West University Public Safety Station, Lt. Hanson said the station has had a positive impact in the area. She also said the police department has become more selective in its enforcement by cracking down on drug dealing.

Businesses such as Sacred Heart Medical Center and Excelsior Cafe are seeing an effect on the quality of life in the area, too.

Sacred Heart has experienced theft in its parking garage, and some people are afraid to walk to their cars alone at night. Excelsior Cafe customers have also expressed safety concerns and are asking for escorts to walk to their cars at night.

Community Relations Manager Rosie Pryor said these issues will be brought to the City Council.

### CORRECTION

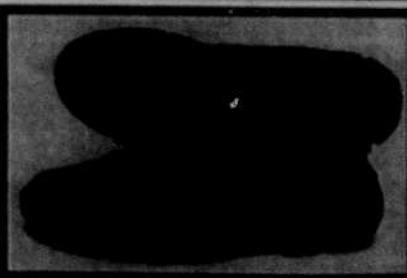
The article titled "UO home of country's first gay fraternity" in the Monday, April 29, 1996 edition of the *Emerald* stated that Delta Lambda Phi fraternity's May 4 dance will kick-off

Gay Pride Week. To clarify, the kick-off for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance Pride Week events is a reception and tea party on Sunday, May 5.

Further, the headline implied

that UO is the home of the very first gay fraternity. Actually, UO has recently become home to a chapter of Delta Lambda Phi, which has about 30 chapters nationwide.

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