

Proposal: Opposition claims students not informed about project

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went about obtaining the necessary permits and conducted public hearings on the subject.

The master plan, which calls for 15 buildings and 1.2 million square feet of development, was completed and approved in 1988. The development will reach to within 35 feet of the river.

Students and residents in Eugene have varied reactions to the research park development.

In 1989 University students created the Campus Greenway Initiative for the ASUO student elections concerning the proposed research park. The initiative explained the value of preserving the greenway area.

"This land is important to many students for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, [and it] provides essential habitat for riparian wildlife and vegetation," the initiative says.

The initiative proposed that development be limited to the south side of the railroad tracks and not sprawl onto the undeveloped riverbank area on the north side.

The election results, printed in the April 28, 1989, issue of the *Emerald*, showed that nearly 80 percent of the students who voted agreed to protect the riverbank by limiting development.

Kevin Aaron, coordinator for the University Survival Center, doesn't approve of the way in which the planners have arranged the development.

"The whole thing seems underhanded," Aaron said. "In

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— Kevin Aaron
Coordinator, University Survival Center

the late-80s the park was a big topic and there was widespread opposition by students. They've long since left the University and the topic has died down, so students now are uninformed and really have no idea what's going on.

"The [University] Planning Office has done nothing to try to inform the students about what is going on in their own backyard," he said. "There haven't been any public forums about



Perry Meyers welds in a support to prepare for construction of a new tunnel at the Riverfront project.

the research park since 1987."

Kevin Hornbuckle, city councilman for ward three, which includes the University, is also opposed to the project.

"[The research park is a] public subsidy to private interests and privatization of University assets," he said.

Hornbuckle calls this development "privatization" because the building space will be leased in large part to private research

firms, even though the property is owned by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

On the other hand, Diane Wiley, a planning associate at the University Planning Office, supports the development project for several reasons.

Wiley said she believes it will help boost Eugene's economy, as well as boost the reputation of the University as a respected research establishment. Further-

more, she believes the research park could potentially offer job opportunities to University graduates.

But the jobs have not yet materialized, according to the University Career Center.

Beth Swank, a career counselor at the center, said, "As far as I know, the Career Center has not received specific information about job opportunities at the Riverfront Research Park."

1996-97 Student Senate met for first time

SENATE: New members received paperwork to peruse over break

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

The 1996-97 ASUO Student Senate met for the first time on Wednesday evening in the EMU Board Room.

Ten newly elected members of the 18-person body attended the meeting, where general rules and regulations of the Senate's operations were presented.

The meeting was brief and the new Senators were given plenty of paperwork and rules to ponder over the summer.

"It was informative with a lot of rules and a lot of help for future reference," Sen. Sari Wisch said.

Senate Vice-President James who's served on the body for three years, presided over the meeting and outlined many of the goals for next year's Senate along with the paperwork.

For example, Boyd said he hoped to make the Senate's grievance table a more viable resource for students.

"It's our attempt to get out and be visible with students," he said. "The campus doesn't know a lot of what we do."

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Senator

ing the members of a 6-person summer committee as well as hearing a special request from the *Oregon Commentator*. However, since quorum (two-thirds attendance) was not reached, the Senate postponed these decisions until June 5, its final meeting of the year.

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