

The ASUO Student Senate convened for the first time in the 1996/97 academic year Wednesday night in the EMU Board Room.

■ The Senate welcomed Michael Davis, a third-year law student, to Senate Seat 18. The position is a two-year appointment.

■ Abid Hussain and Andrew Oberriter were approved to become members of the Constitution Court.

■ Brandon Smith of the ASUO Elections Board presented possible new voting methods to the Senate. Smith said the new University photo ID cards will not allow the voting process to continue as it has in years past.

"Our biggest problem is the new cards have no stickers," he said. "We need to have some way to make sure people aren't gallivanting from booth to booth."

Smith suggested using touch screen ballots, dial-in voting and hand scanners as possible changes.

■ The Senate approved a line-item transfer of \$2,178 for the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy to pay for student employees.

—compiled by Kristin Bailey and Tom Potter

Group forms to consider future of park



Fences block off areas throughout Scobert Park. According to the city of Eugene, the fences have been put up so that vegetation in the area can rehabilitate.

MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

■ **SCOBERT:** Neighborhood claims that the city is hoping to close the park for good

By Jean Bond
Community Reporter

Eugene is forming an advisory committee to look at short- and long-term goals for Scobert Park in the Whiteaker neighborhood.

Part of the park has been temporarily closed for renovation, said Bob Hammitt, Public Works maintenance director. The park will reopen Dec. 2.

Originally, the whole park was to be shut down but after neighborhood protests, a community committee and the city agreed that only part of the park should be closed.

A portion of the park was fenced off Sept. 9, but the fence was destroyed, Hammitt said. A new fence was put in the park Tuesday.

"The first fence they put up closed most of the park," said Tim Lewis of the Coalition to Save Scobert Park. "The city totally disregarded the decision of the committee."

The new fence leaves more of the park open, he said.

The park needs to be closed for renovation, Hammitt said. Much of the vegetation in the park has been destroyed and play equipment has been mistreated, he said.

Lewis said the city is trying to shut the park down because of crime there.

"Sure, those things happen here, but they happen in a lot of other places, too," Lewis said. "The park itself is one of the only open spaces in the Whiteaker neighborhood, and shutting it down isn't the solution."

In the city's negotiations with the community, an agreement was reached to form an advisory committee to look at the problems in Scobert Park. The committee will include representatives of a variety of interests, including the homeless, the West Blair neighborhood, neighbors of the park, local businesses, social service providers and horticulturists.

People interested in serving on the committee should get an application from Public Works Maintenance located at 1820 Roosevelt Blvd. or the Whiteaker Public Safety office located at 520 Blair Blvd.

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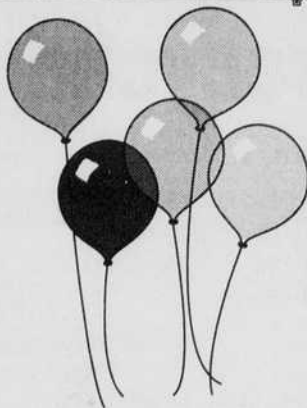
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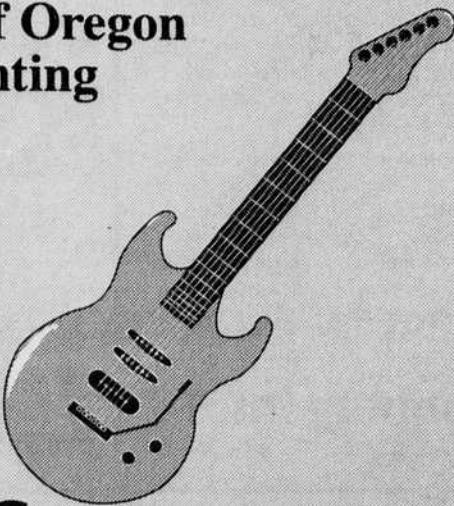
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