

INDEX

Opinion	2
News	3
Sports	7
Classifieds	10
Horoscope	10
Crossword	11

TODAY

100 obstructed view tickets remain for the UCLA and USC games, and a handful of general admission are left for the USC game.



INSIDE

UCLA and Oregon both have 11-5 marks, but their records don't tell the whole story

7
6

A video and discussion group explored multi-racial issues in a forum Wednesday night



WEATHER

Cloudy.
High 50. Low 40.

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OSPIRG protests use of chemical toxins

■ CAMPAIGN: OSPIRG members staged a "toxic spill" in an effort to encourage the public's awareness

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Editor

OSPIRG members donned toxic suits and collected student signatures on 13th Avenue yesterday in an effort to expand the public's right to know about toxic chemicals.

Two hundred fifty total cards resembling "warning labels" were signed by students to boost the total number of cards collected at the University to 1,203, said Erik Carlson, OSPIRG's Toxic Campaign leader. The "toxic spill" was staged to draw attention to the lack of information about toxins available to the public — toxins that OSPIRG says have harmful effects on the environment and health.

The cards will be sent to the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with a national student campaign to submit public comment to the agency. The EPA has asked for public comment on the right to know issue.

"These cards show the concern of students and citizens, and this may help prompt federal legislation regarding toxics," Carlson said. "People should be able to make informed decisions, and maybe this type of action will shame corporations into ceasing their use of toxics."

Carlson gave the example of the chemical atrazine having been found in 90 percent of samples taken by the USGS in the Willamette River. Atrazine has been found to cause breast cancer in labs and is nearly as potent as DDT, he said.

"There are so many companies making products with harmful chemicals — it affects health, even my reproductive system," said OSPIRG intern Jenna Burd, adorned in a toxic suit. "We want companies to take responsibility for what they're doing to the planet, and these signatures support our cause."

Turn to **CAMPAIGN**, Page 6



Two hundred fifty students signed "warning label" petitions at a staged toxic waste spill along 13th Avenue on Wednesday.

New city manager to be sworn in

■ CITY: Vicki Elmer is hoping to purchase more land for Eugene and to make significant changes in the city's growth management program

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

Eugene's new city manager was sworn into office following a unanimous vote by the City Council during Wednesday's meeting to move up her starting date.

Vicki Elmer was supposed to be sworn into office on Feb. 1, but the City Council voted unanimously to start her job three days early. The mayor was also told to change her contract to reflect the date change.

The majority of the Council said they believed Elmer would be an asset to the city.

"I honestly believed going into this process that [Vicki] did not have the necessary experience," Torrey said. "Then through the interview process it was clear she was far ahead of the other candidates, but I still had reservations. But in Berkeley, I had a hard time finding anything negative about her with the exception of one thing. I will be proud to work with her in this capacity of city manager."

Elmer said she is prepared to work with the City Council on the big issues concerning growth management.

"My immediate goal is to work on Measure 47 and growth management," she said. "I want to transform the city into a community-based government which relies both on the fruits of technology and employee teamwork."

Elmer also said she was going to focus



Turn to **CITY**, Page 6

Planners discuss park development

Citizens shared their ideas about possible changes to West Alton Baker Park

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

Development in West Alton Baker Park should focus on minimizing concrete and maximizing natural areas, citizens told park planners in a public meeting Wednesday night.

The development plan, designed by park planners John Etter and John Weber, was proposing additional parking sites, a new boat ramp access point, a cultural center and a tree garden, among other smaller additions.

However, the proposals were not concrete, and suggestions from the meeting are being used to alter the plan to fit public sentiment. The resounding sentiment Wednesday night was that there was too much development for members of the audience.

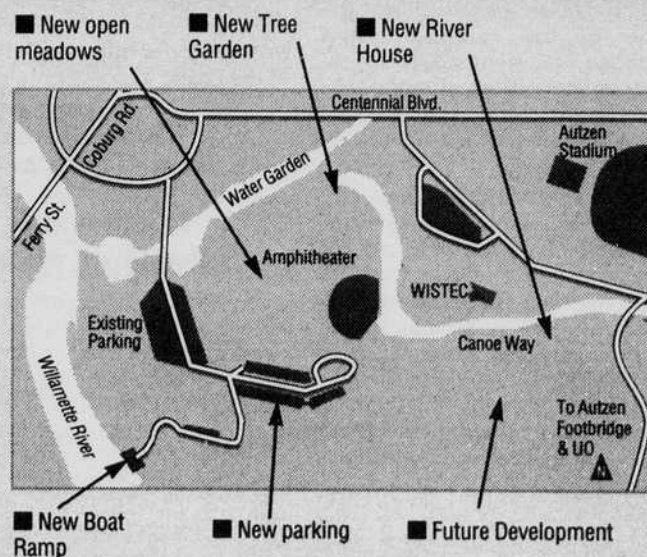
"What I think these people are having a problem with is the amount of concrete and pavement," said Charles Biggs, a member of the East Alton Baker Park committee. "It seems like you are haphazardly putting things here and there."

Biggs emphasized the need to develop natural areas in the park, as opposed to building a structure for a cultural center and paving new areas for parking.

Of most concern to the audience was the proposal of 212 new parking spaces to accommodate cramped parking for patrons of Cuthbert Amphitheater. The Amphitheater lost many former parking spots due to the University's plans for development of its indoor practice facility and soccer fields west of Autzen Stadium.

Turn to **PARK**, Page 6

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO WEST ALTON BAKER PARK



SOURCE: Eugene Public Works

MATT GARTON, DENNIS BOLT/Emerald