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THE ZEN TRICKSTERS

Associations to be revamped

■ Neighborhood groups will have to meet four times per year in order to be funded by the city

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

With a relatively large audience of 25 in City Hall Wednesday night, City Council took another step toward revamping Eugene's neighborhood associations system, but the University area might get left behind.

Nearly one year after City Council devoted the funds to revitalize the city's ailing neighborhood associations, the council Wednesday night approved a set of guidelines and a funding framework.

"We talk a lot around this table about public involvement. In my mind, neighborhood associations

are the best way to get the public involved and to promote community," Councilor David Kelly said.

The council decided that neighborhood associations will have to encompass at least 300 households but cannot contain more than 8 percent of Eugene residents. Every residential tax lot must be represented by an association, and the associations cannot be separated by major barriers, such as an arterial road or the Willamette River. The associations will hold elections to change neighborhood charts and will report to the city.

To receive full funding, associations must meet four times per year, and at three of those meetings, at least ten residents in addition to the executive association members must be present.

Because the neighborhood asso-

ciation representing the University area has only met once in the past year, Councilor Bobby Lee, who represents much of West Eugene area, said the University area would not likely receive funding.

Lee supported the proposals, however, because he felt they set concrete standards for neighborhood associations. "The city needs standards, and the University area can't be a standard," Lee said. "It's a very unique area."

Instead, Lee proposed a neighborhood program be tailored to fit the University area.

The council also discussed salmon protection and heard the first Youth Leadership Program presentation of the year. Seven Eugene high school students presented various youth issues ranging from traffic safety to academic programs for struggling students.

Gelbspan

continued from page 1A

visit to campus. Event organizers said Gelbspan's lecture was sponsored by more than 50 different groups — the widest coalition ever to sponsor a speaker at this campus.

"There is a lot of misinformation that is being promoted — particularly about natural resource issues and in the field of fossil fuels," said John Baldwin, director of the University Institute for a Sustainable Environment and Gelbspan's host. Gelbspan "has worked tirelessly to uncover the truth. It's very important for the next generation of students to sort out what information is true."

Gelbspan's talk described the devastating effects of the increased amount carbon dioxide

trapped in the atmosphere on weather patterns, global economies and political structures. He used anecdotal evidence to make his point, such as rapidly melting glaciers, crops failing because of intense droughts and extreme storms.

The audience listened intently as Gelbspan told them about the "dozen or so" scientists who have worked to refute the compelling evidence of global warming presented by more than 2,000 scientists on the other side. These 12 "greenhouse skeptics" are funded by fossil fuel concerns, he said.

"It's sheer propaganda," said Vera Kewene, a senior geography major. Kewene, who is also involved in the sustainable business symposium, said she has received the kinds of disinformation that Gelbspan spoke of.

"What he said was totally backed

up by things I read," she said.

Gelbspan said he spends his time traveling around the country speaking about this issue because "people need to know about this stuff." The intense efforts of the fossil fuel lobby and what he calls a "human instinct not to want to know about this huge and scary problem," have contributed to widespread ignorance on this issue.

There is a very promising, simple solution to this problem. Technologies exist right now that can "give us all the energy the energy we use today — and more," he said.

Merriah Fairchild, a senior double-majoring in women's studies and planning, public policy and management liked the solutions Gelbspan offered.

"It stood out that he has some pretty solid solutions," she said. "I just hope our elected officials listen to them."

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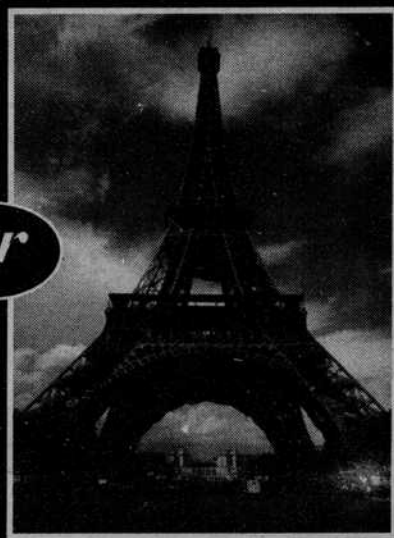
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