

## News brief

### ASUO receives last-minute influx of 'Bucks for Ducks' proposals

By the end of the day Friday, the ASUO Executive had in its hands nearly 40 suggestions of how to spend \$100,000. And now it's only a matter of time before the student

body knows which proposals will win out in the ASUO's "Bucks for Ducks" campaign.

"We got so many more applications than we expected," said ASUO Publicity Director Jamie Gerlitz. "On Friday, there was a steady stream."

The campaign sought student ideas on how to spend \$100,000 from the overrealized account, which contains leftover student in-

cidental fee money that comes when enrollment is higher than expected. After a month of campaigning, only about 10 proposals had been turned in to the office by Thursday afternoon.

But a final-day burst brought in the remaining proposals.

"Friday was a madhouse," said ASUO President Jay Breslow. "It was a lot of fun."

Gerlitz said the ASUO has not

released details about the submitted proposals. But she did say some of the proposals deal with environmental issues and the arts, while others suggest architectural improvements around campus. There were also "a bunch" of applications relating to alcohol-free activities students could participate in.

The Bucks for Ducks committee will make a decision by May 16,

which is the same day it will have to go before the ASUO Student Senate for approval. That same day, the University mascot will present the winner(s) with a check.

Because not many applications suggested using the entire \$100,000, there is a possibility the four-member committee in charge will decide to choose more than one proposal, Gerlitz said.

## Move

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spend to restore the houses, it made more sense financially to sell the houses to her, housing department officials said.

"As good business people we have to make decisions," said Frank Gaddini, area director for University Family Housing. "We operate on very small margins of

surplus each year."

The house at 1649 Moss St., which Gaddini said was built around 1910, has asbestos covering the exterior, roof and interior floor. Gaddini estimated that the asbestos bill alone would have cost more than \$50,000.

The house is also without a foundation, and its plumbing fixtures are sinking into the ground. Gaddini estimated that fixing the foundation would cost between

\$30,000 and \$40,000.

Wilson said Saturday that she will spend approximately \$150,000 restoring and moving the house.

On Saturday, protesters gathered outside the houses on Moss Street to express their dismay at the houses being moved. Gaddini defended Wilson's decision to move the houses after she bought them.

"If you buy a used car, you're go-

ing to take it out of the driveway," Gaddini said.

The houses were moved farther east, to the side of Augusta Street, until a permanent place for them can be found.

University Housing's vintage houses are located on the east end of campus. The houses occupy Columbia, Moss and Villard streets between 15th and 19th avenues. Of the 112 houses University Housing owns, Gaddini estimated

that 102 of them are in great condition. He attributed some of the problems with the vintage houses to the fact that some of the houses were built before building codes were enforced.

The Moss Street houses' switch from University to private ownership is disconcerting to Gaddini.

"It really gets to be a sad feeling because I know these houses like I know my own children," he said.

## Neighborhood

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and raccoons," and that he believes the University allows houses to fall into poor physical condition to justify their removal.

But Eyster counters that University Housing leaves homes empty only in transition between tenants.

"Our first intention is always to

keep houses rented," he said, adding that his department currently has one empty home in the Moss Street area. "It's not rentable and the cost to renovate it would be too much," he said.

One option that the University could take advantage of to finance the renovation and upkeep of the houses is through the University's historic preservation program and the work study program, Vishanoff said.

Vishanoff held a meeting Saturday in the front yard of one of the houses slated to be transplanted to discuss University Housing's actions in the neighborhood. During that meeting, he patrolled the sidewalk with a sign that read, "Save affordable family housing."

Ron "Misha" Seymour, an area resident who attended the meeting, said his concerns are "to have affordable family housing and to have things that look beautiful, to protect the history we have here."

Concerned about what he thinks is a lack of communication and dialogue between University Housing and neighborhood homeowners, Vishanoff expressed displeasure with the public input process.

"They've been excluded from the process," he said. "The housing de-

partment hasn't been consulting with them for the last three years."

But Laura Marriott, president of the Fairmount Neighbors, a neighborhood association that includes the Moss Street area, said the University does inform the neighborhood in advance of developments.

Toby Grant, who lives across Villard Street from the University and leases several properties in the area, said he wants to open a dialogue between neighborhood residents and University Housing.

Grant has lived in the area for 14 years and said he is also concerned with the installation of parking regulation signs, as well as what he believes is the dilapidation of University-owned properties in the area.

Both Grant and Vishanoff said they are concerned about the possi-

bility of future development projects in the area.


Grant also expressed concern about the presence of the University Department of Public Safety in the neighborhood.

"They are an expression of the encroachment of the University on the eastern side of Villard [Street]," he said.

Grant was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge at his house at 1914 E. 17th Ave. after the meeting Saturday. He said a DPS officer drove past several times before calling the Eugene Police Department.

"What gives them the right to extend their jurisdiction beyond the University?" he asked. He said he believed the DPS officer disturbed his right to "lawful assembly."

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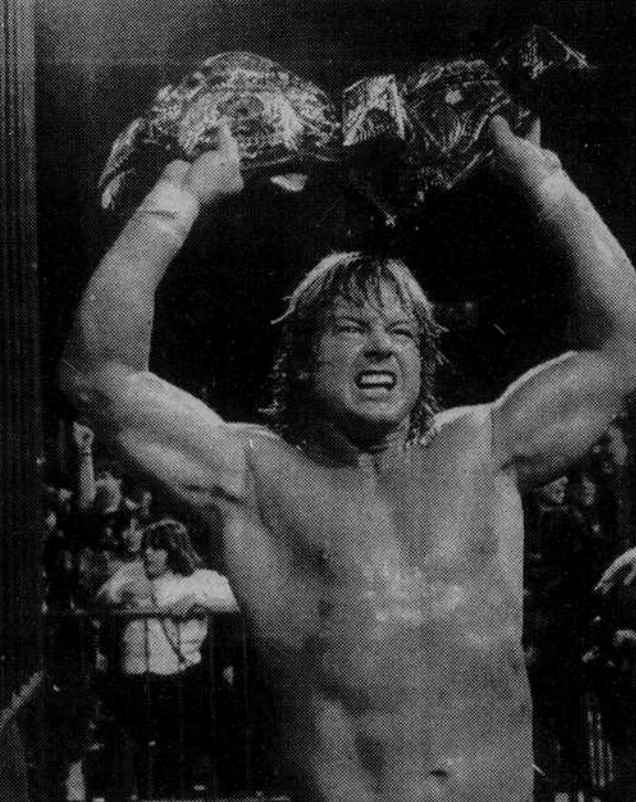

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