

University child care facility location met with resistance

■ Students and residents have contested the Moss Street facility because of its location and communication issues

By Brad Schmidt
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University hopes to submit paperwork by the end of the month that will pave the way for construction of new child care facilities, despite two-fold opposition from a handful of students affected by the proposed east campus location and residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

The location of a new \$2.8 million, 14,000 square-foot child care facility is at the center of debate, even after the University decided in February to move the potential site from 17th Avenue and Columbia Street to 17th Avenue and Moss Street and even though the land is University-owned.

Most resistance has come from the Fairmount Neighborhood Association, which claims the University is breaking a 20-year pact with the east campus district in its proposed development of residential land.

Sophomore Mark Donahue, who lived until May 31 at one of the seven University-owned houses affected by the childcare center, said he supported the new child care facility until the University mistreated him before he left his residence.

Donahue said in an e-mail that his house was opened to the public for viewing, said his cable was shut off and said a fence was con-



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Sneaker the cat peers from the window of a house in the Fairmount neighborhood. The new child care facility will be built on the land where Sneaker and his family live.

structed in his backyard without his consent. All this, he said, came without prior notice and while he and his partner, Kate Workman, lived in the house.

East Campus Housing Director Frank Gaddini apologized for the problems but denied any involvement, saying that all students were given 24-hour notification, that housing didn't have anything to do with the cable disconnection and that the fence was constructed to protect a historic tree, not to inconvenience the residents.


Cathy Gray and her husband,

Russell, a law student, are the only residents still remaining in the University-owned houses affected by the child care center.

Gray called the situation "pretty nasty," adding that she's been kept in the dark by the housing department and subsequently has been forced to rely on hearsay.

"I have no problem with them using their property however they want," she said. "University Housing is the problem; they're not forthcoming."

Turn to Fairmount, page 9A

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