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Chamber weathers physiology studies

The University's environmental chamber can show the effects of extreme conditions on the human body

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

While the weather in Eugene may not vary tremendously, one can now experience the humid Deep South, an arid desert or an icy tundra without leaving campus.

Inside a 12-foot cube buried in Esslinger Hall, two University professors have built an environmental chamber in which internal conditions can change from 4 degrees

Fahrenheit to 122 F in 30 minutes, with humidity anywhere from 10 to 95 percent and altitude up to 18,000 feet. Largely funded by the Department of Defense, this chamber has applications ranging from understanding sleep apnea to training athletes.

Thursday morning, assistant professor of human physiology

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Chris Minson, associate professor of human physiology, left, helps Gregg McCord, human physiology graduate student, prepare for a demonstration of the University's new environmental chamber Thursday morning in Esslinger 156.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

University area houses face summer construction

Many houses to the west of campus will be fixed up or torn down under a new owner

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Recent property purchases in the neighborhoods east and west of campus might bring summer activities to the area; such as houses being moved, buildings being remodeled and structures being demolished.

Curt Large, CEO of Evergreen Roofing, recently purchased 17 properties in the West University Neighborhood for approximately \$2 million. Large said he is hoping to fix up the properties, which were previously part of the late Fred Rankin's estate, and rent them out to students as soon as possible.

The poor condition of the properties means some may need to be demolished and new structures built in their place, Large said.

The purchase cleared June 9, and Large said "we've been kind of keeping it quiet" until more information is known about what will be done with the properties.

"There's a lot of things in my favor in terms of low interest rates, the lack of viable properties and (the properties purchased) have good zoning," Large said. "Our goal again is to get things back up to par and put them at nice rentable status."

Eugene Police Officer Randy Ellis, who patrols the West University Neighborhood, said he's very familiar with the properties, which he said have been in poor condition for quite some time.

He said his main concern with the recent purchase is that the historical significance of the buildings may be ignored in order to build large, money-making apartment complexes.

"My biggest concern is they'll become a bunch more MUPTes," Ellis said, referring to the Multi-Unit Property Tax Exemption the city offers to developers looking to build units of high-density housing.

Large said he hopes to have the properties ready to rent within 18 months, but he said the timeline is very tentative because of how early on in the process it is and the lack of concrete ideas about what needs to be done with each of the properties.

The east campus area

Five houses in the east campus neighborhood have been sold and need to be relocated by Oct. 31. University officials say the houses, located at 1577 Moss Street, 1660 Moss Street, 1599 Moss Street and 1830-32 Columbia Street, were not in rentable condition but the University was able to find buyers willing to cover the relocation costs so the historical significance of the properties can still be maintained.

Another house on the "to sell" list, located at 1788 Moss Street, did not receive any offers, but Director of Campus Operations George Hecht said at the East Campus Task Group meeting on May 17 that he would continue examining the house to see whether something could be done to restore it or whether it needs to be demolished.

The group has been working since the beginning of the school year to map out a plan to transfer management of certain east campus properties from University housing to the greater University. The houses on the

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ERIK BISHOFF | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

A memorial for University journalism graduate Phillip Julian Gillins has been erected in the alley between West Moon Trading Company and Hodgepodge on East 13th Avenue.

Remembering Phillip Gillins

The University student, described by friends as a creative social butterfly, was scheduled to walk during graduation ceremonies

BY GABE BRADLEY
NEWS EDITOR

When Hilary Home first heard about her boyfriend's injuries, the prognosis looked good.

"He was supposed to be okay," Home said. "I was sobbing, but I had hope."

University senior Phillip Gillins was expected to recover from the brain injuries he sustained when he was assaulted outside a bar on East 13th Avenue at about 2 a.m. on June 10.

Home, a recent graduate of the University of Colorado, booked a plane ticket to Eugene in order to be with Gillins during his recovery.

"In my mind, I was going home to lay in bed with him, watch movies and help him recover," Home said.

Home soon received word that Gillins would not recover. Her friends helped her book an earlier flight. By the time she arrived, however, Gillins had died.

His friends describe him as a highly creative, compassionate person.

"He was a great guy; he was always fun to be around; he had great stories to tell; he was very

accepting of everyone," childhood friend Katy Butell said.

Butell hung a small poster honoring Gillins at the impromptu memorial in the alley between West Moon Trading Company and Hodgepodge, near the spot where Gillins was attacked.

"You can just tell what a funny guy he was just by looking at his face in those pictures," she said.

Gillins, a Portland native, had been scheduled to walk in the graduation ceremonies June 10.

After finishing a few general education requirements summer term, he had hoped to work for an ad agency either in New York or San Francisco.

"It's so close I can taste it," wrote Gillins in his profile at thefacebook.com.

"He was a very creative guy and you knew whatever job he was going to have he was going to use the talent of creativity," Butell said.

Among other things, Gillins expressed his creativity through drawing and playing the guitar.

"I remember when he was first learning to play

and he learned the national anthem, and was playing it for all of us at our Christmas dinner," Butell said.

"I would always make him play guitar for me because he was so good," Home said.

Gillins, a comic book fan and prolific artist, drew pictures of superheroes to entertain Home's 9-year-old brother.

Near the end of his college career, Gillins began gravitating toward writing. He took a creative writing class in the spring and had planned to take three more over the summer.

"He wanted to write a novel," Home said.

Gillins had many close friends. When Home and Gillins discussed their plans to get married, Gillins was unable to narrow down his choice of best man to less than five people.

"He'd say, 'You can't make me choose. I don't know who it would be,'" Home said. "He was a social butterfly. It wasn't hard to take him out to new situations with new people."

Gillins is survived by his parents, Peter and Linda, and his sister Liz.

"He loved them so much. I remember every Christmas he would look forward to spoiling them," Home said of Gillins' family.

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