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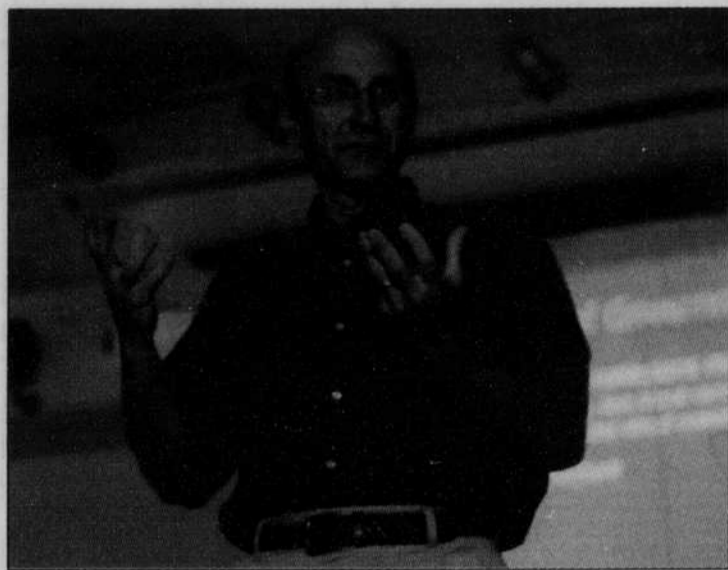
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Task force takes on sustainability

The group is part of an initiative to improve the economy while protecting natural resources



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Mike Russo, professor and department head in the University's Lundquist College of Business, talked about the need for well-planned economic structure and strategy at the Sustainable Economic Development Task Force meeting held at the Eugene Public Library on Thursday afternoon.

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

A 2004 community survey conducted by the City of Eugene found that the most important problem facing Eugene was economic development. The latest economic indicators index is at its lowest mark since October 2004. In response to these statistics, Mayor Kitty Piercy has recently created a new, 16-member task force under the Sustainable Business Initiative to help expand and develop business and job opportunities by soliciting ideas from local businesses, the public and sustainability experts.

"We're here to take the step to make Eugene a more sustainable place," Piercy said about the new Sustainable Economic

Development Task Force.

"I had developed a five-point economic plan when I was running for mayor and the SBI is fulfilling my commitment. As I talked to people, knocked on doors and got the results of several surveys, it was apparent to me that across the political spectrum, members of our community want to protect our natural resources and have a strong economy that provides good jobs and benefits. I thought we should leverage what we have to build our economic base and to invest in our future," Piercy wrote in an e-mail.

The new task force, which is based on this five-point initiative, will work to establish a

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Classified workers, OUS reach agreement

If passed, the new agreement will put an end to the two-year freeze on service employees' salaries

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

After almost six months at the bargaining table with Oregon University System management, the Service Employees International Union reached an agreement on salary increases and benefits coverage.

SEIU members will now be sent ballots to vote on the tentative agreement.

The classified workers at the University and throughout Oregon are the administration assistants, custodians, food service and maintenance workers, public safety officers, department staffers, filers, secretaries, people in charge of class scheduling and other behind-the-scenes jobs at the University. An SEIU banner at a rally in early July read, "The University Works Because We Do."

"This is a fair settlement with significant compensation and benefits increases that recognizes the integral support role that classified

SEIU, page 4

a RESPONSE for civil rights

Supporters gathered to react to the fall of SB1000 and an ad that argued against the bill

BY GABE BRADLEY
NEWS EDITOR

About 70 people gathered at Alton Baker park on Thursday to protest the demise of Senate Bill 1000 and respond to an advertisement by the Defense of Marriage Coalition.

"These people are here to support civil unions or civil rights," event organizer Hallie Edwards said.

Edwards said the primary impetus for the event was a half-page advertisement that the Defense of Marriage Coalition placed in the City/Region section of The Register-Guard on July 26.

The ad argues against Senate Bill 1000, which would have made provisions in Oregon law allowing civil unions for same-sex couples.

"I felt it was attacking me," Edwards said. "It had a little family: the mom, the dad, the two kids."



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Dan McGuire of Eugene takes a picture of supporters of Senate Bill 1000, a bill that was killed in the Oregon House, in Alton Baker Park on Thursday afternoon.

Edwards said the display of a nuclear family was an unrealistic portrayal of many American families. In order to respond, Edwards decided to gather supporters of SB1000 together to take a picture and raise money for a response ad. "I sent out some e-mails. Some other people sent out some e-mails. And here we are," she said.

Edwards said she was impressed by the turnout. She didn't have any previous

event-organizing experience.

"It never even occurred to me that I could," Edwards said. "I keep to myself, and I've kept to myself for too long."

At the event, supporters were collecting donations in order to place the photograph in the Register-Guard as an advertisement. An

RESPONSE, page 4

Neighbors board aims to open park near campus

EPD Officer Randy Ellis shared his concern that the park would become a haven for crime because of lack of visibility and lighting

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

The West University Neighbors meeting at the Glenwood Restaurant on 13th Avenue and Alder Street on Thursday continued the debate about reopening West University Neighborhood Park.

Eugene Police Officer Randy Ellis told the board and other neighbors at the start of the meeting that their chances of convincing the city to reopen the park are slim considering the criminal reputation that closed the park down about 10 years ago. The poor visibility of the "pocket park," with no lighting and two escape routes for potential criminals, made West University Neighborhood Park a haven

for residential transients, Ellis said.

"We had people camping, drug dealing and Dumpster diving ... these are the same issues the park still will face; I have to tell you," Ellis said. "I'll bet a month's pay that the same issues will confront the park again."

University student and WUN Board member Craig Laupheimer argued that the positive community effort that is going into this endeavor far outweighs the negative.

"To have the potential for positivity you must realize the dark side. But it's important to realize also the positive things that do come from parks," Laupheimer said,

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Robin Hostick from the Eugene Parks Department represents the city at the West University Neighbors meeting at the Glenwood Restaurant on Thursday night.



COURTESY

IN BRIEF

Eugene police search for campus criminal

The Eugene Police Department continues to search for a man who pulled a gun during an attempted robbery in Klamath Hall on July 25.

The 5-foot-10-inch white male in his late 20s was confronted by a University staff member when he was trying to steal a laptop computer.

The man fled the scene and has yet to be captured.

Tom Hicks, director of the University's Department of Public Safety, said DPS will continue to aid EPD in any way possible.

EPD has provided a sketch of the man based on witness descriptions.

Anyone with information relating to this incident is asked to call EPD at 682-5111.

— Gabe Bradley