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University officials aim to sell Westmoreland Apartments

Students may have to move if higher education board approves the decision to sell the 404-unit housing complex

BY MEGHAN CLUNIFF & JARED PABEN
NEWS EDITORS

The University hopes to sell 404 apartments, a childcare center and the 26 acres they occupy with the aim of using the potential tens of millions of dollars for projects that include improving student housing closer to campus, several officials announced Thursday.

The 582 people currently living in the Westmoreland Apartments, located more than 2 miles west of campus, will be able to stay until their leases expire on

June 30, 2006, the officials said.

The 37 buildings make up the University's largest off-campus housing complex. There are no plans to replace the apartments with other off-campus family housing.

University officials decided to put the 45-year-old property up for sale because of high maintenance costs and the high potential cost of repairing the major structural problems on the site.

Also, the site was originally built to accommodate students with children,

but only about 13 percent of the current residents have children, said Mike Eyster, interim vice president for Student Affairs and director of University Housing said.

There are only 360 leaseholders currently at Westmoreland, he said.

"We started out as family housing, and we're not really housing very many families," Eyster said. "We started out full, with a lot of demand, and that's not really the case right now. We started out trying to serve children, and there aren't very many children living there."

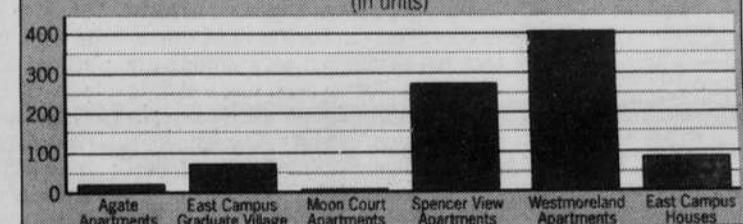
Westmoreland residents with children will get first priority in relocating to the

WESTMORELAND, page 5A



STEVEN NEUMAN | ONLINE/SUPPLEMENTS EDITOR

UNIVERSITY HOUSING SIZE (in units)



CHRIS TODD | GRAPHIC ARTIST

HEFTY COST SEEKING SPOTTER

The Student Recreation Center released expansion plans totaling \$21.8 million

BY JOE BAILEY
NEWS REPORTER

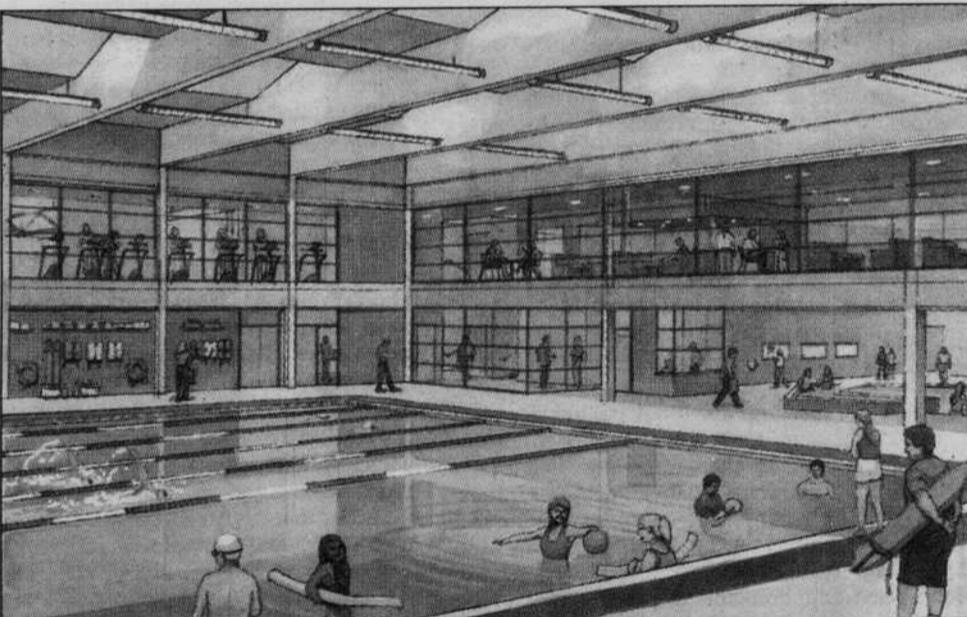
Visitors to the Student Recreation Center may have noticed a display of detailed models and composites showcasing a plan for a future expansion, but students should not expect to see changes anytime soon.

Physical Activity and Recreation Services has released a conceptual plan calling for extensive additions to the SRC. At an estimated cost of \$21.8 million, the plan was drawn on funds the center does not have.

An expansion of the SRC's aquatic facilities forms the centerpiece of the proposal with the addition of a 12-lane lap pool, a warmer leisure pool and two spa areas. Currently, the SRC has only the Leighton pool. The proposal would also add three basketball courts and five racquetball courts. Additionally, the plan would add about 60 percent more space for aerobic and weight training, as well as enlarged locker rooms and a social space where students could congregate.

The SRC was opened in its present form in 2000 after a \$20 million construction project. The University was one of many across the nation putting a stronger emphasis on building and improving recreation centers.

Although PARS Director Dennis Munroe is enthusiastic about the potential additions, he cautions students not to expect immediate changes.



An artist's rendering shows the swimming pool facility Physical Activity and Recreation Services would like to build at the Student Recreation Center.

"We wouldn't want to lead them to a false hope that we're breaking ground tomorrow," he said.

Currently, PARS does not have money allocated for expanding the SRC, Munroe said. Furthermore, it is unlikely that the same funding sources which paid for the construction of the SRC will be available for the next phase of the project.

Original construction

Prior to the SRC, students only had access to antiquated fitness facilities, prompting many students to join private, off-campus fitness clubs, Munroe said. The SRC significantly upgraded the campus' recreation options when it fully opened in the fall of 2000.

RENOVATION, page 4A

Students help run election campaigns

Candidates recruit college students who have an interest in politics and a willingness to learn

BY CHRIS HAGAN
NEWS REPORTER

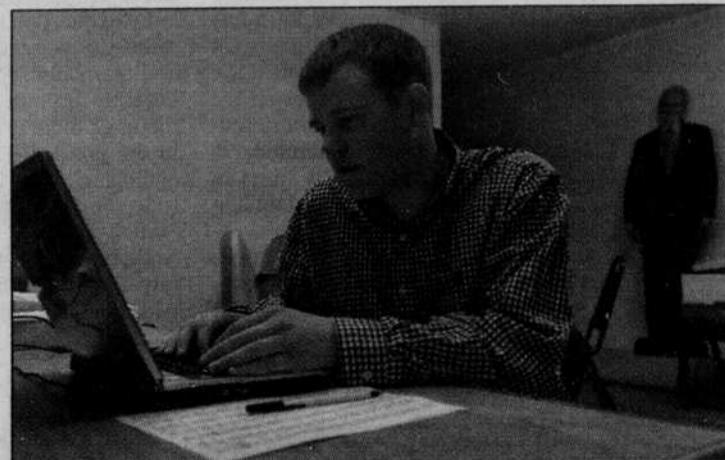
This November may seem like a down period in politics, but candidates are already looking for volunteers and interns to help get their campaigns running, and many are turning to students.

Candee suggested checking out Sorenson's campaign in the spring. She ended up trying it and is still working with the campaign.

Lane Community College, is working with Democratic gubernatorial candidate Pete Sorenson. Last spring, she went to Steve Candee, coordinator for political, government and legal internships at LCC, for a summer internship.

"I do a lot of database work, organizing the office, mundane

Ariella DuSaint, a student from



Senior political science major Jason Shepherd volunteers for Lane County Republicans in hopes that the experience might lead to a career in politics.

Chemicals in plane air incite FAA investigation

Engine leaks spur a study into how air quality affects pilots, attendants and passengers

BY EVA SYLWESTER
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Airplane pilots are responsible for controlling large machines and keeping people safe every day.

Yet exposure to toxic chemicals on their airplanes may impair their ability to perform these tasks, University professor Steve Hecker said.

Two research groups, one headed by University researchers and one headed by the Harvard School of Public Health, have received a nearly \$2 million Federal Aviation Administration grant to investigate how toxic chemicals affect pilots and flight attendants.

Hecker, an associate professor at the University's Labor Education Research Center and director of the center's occupational health and safety programs, said a 2002 report by the National Academy of Sciences inspired the U.S. Congress to direct the FAA to perform research on aircraft air quality.

William Nazaroff, a member of the committee that produced the report, said in a 2003 statement before the U.S. Congress that people inside airplanes can be exposed to contaminants, including ozone, even when the environmental control system is operating normally. When the system is broken, passengers may be exposed to engine oils, hydraulic fluids and deicing fluids.

Nazaroff's statement said the committee recommended research into the health effects of ozone, the effect of cabin-pressure altitude, toxicity of engine fluids, pesticide exposure in airplanes and low relative humidity.

Hecker's team is conducting a survey of pilots and flight attendants to determine how commonly and severely they experience health symptoms attributed to aircraft chemicals.

AIR QUALITY, page 4A