

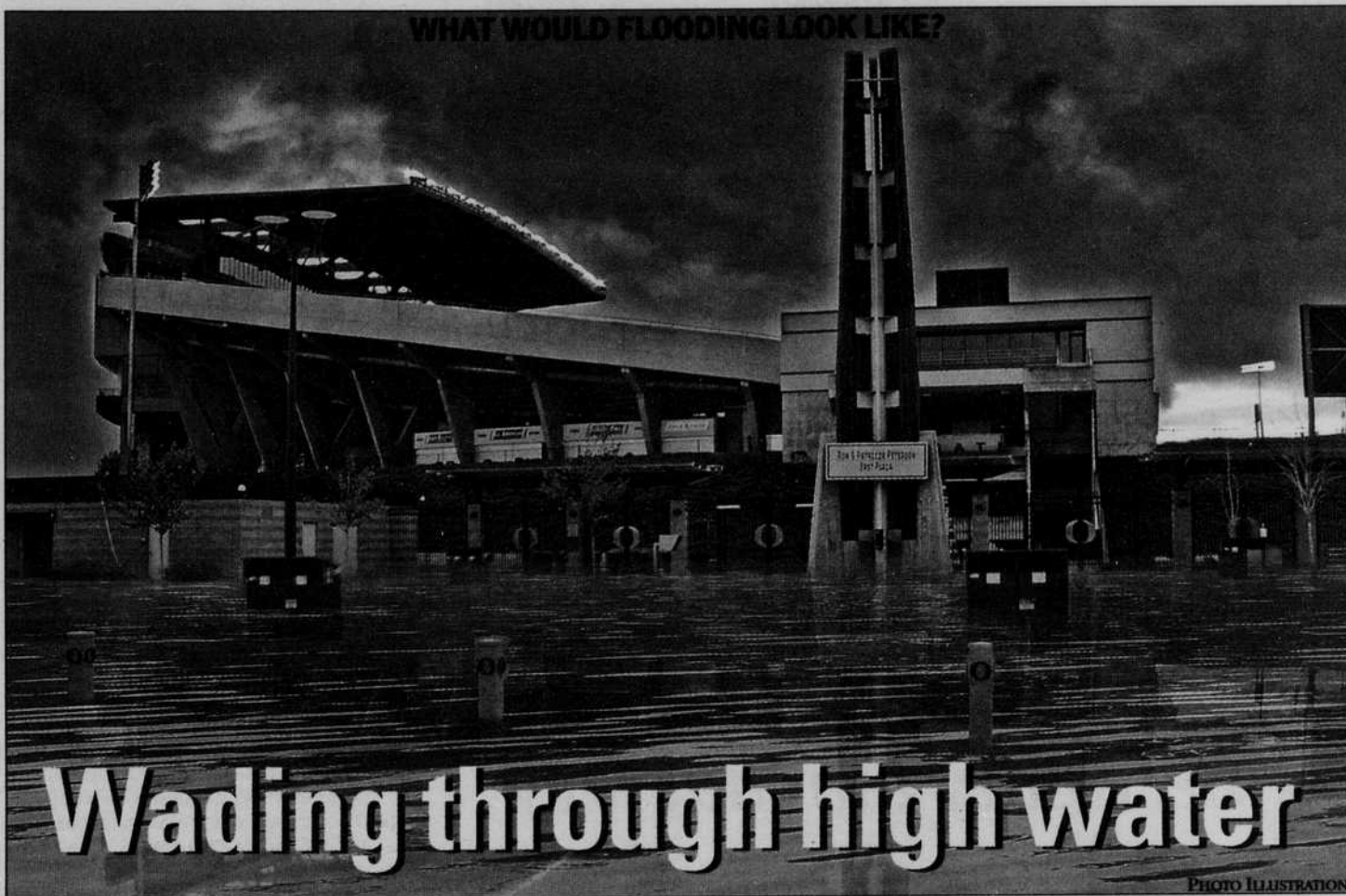
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Disaster preparedness



Although rare, major floods can happen here; areas in and out of the floodplain are vulnerable

BY KATY GAGNON
NEWS REPORTER

Unusually heavy rainfall poured on Oregon for days in February 1996. Rising waters in numerous rivers and streams battered areas throughout Western Oregon.

People frantically filled and placed sandbags along the Willamette River in downtown Portland in an effort to salvage precious buildings and homes.

Eugene was lucky.

Flood waters backed up stormwater systems and localized flooding occurred in low-lying areas. Several roadways throughout Lane County were closed and flood waters washed over Interstate-5 north of Eugene near Boston Mill Road overpass.

In some cases, basements were flooded, but "houses were barely out of it," said Chuck Solin, Eugene emergency program manager.

For the most part, the city was spared, he said.

The 1996 flood was a 25-year event and should not be used "to gauge the level of flood risk for the Eugene/Springfield Metro Area," the Eugene Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan stated.

According to the plan, much larger floods are possible. Classic conditions for a major flood in the Willamette Valley — large snowpack, warm weather, heavy rainfall occurring at a time when reservoirs are pooling water for summer irrigation — could cause flooding in the area, and places like Autzen Stadium and neigh-

boring apartment complexes, such as Duck's Village and University Commons, are especially at risk. Students living in sub-level apartments or basements are in danger of experiencing flooding as well.

There are some things the city can do to prevent flood damage, such as improving current stormwater systems, channeling small creeks and building levees or flood walls on major rivers, according to the mitigation plan.

Dangers to campus

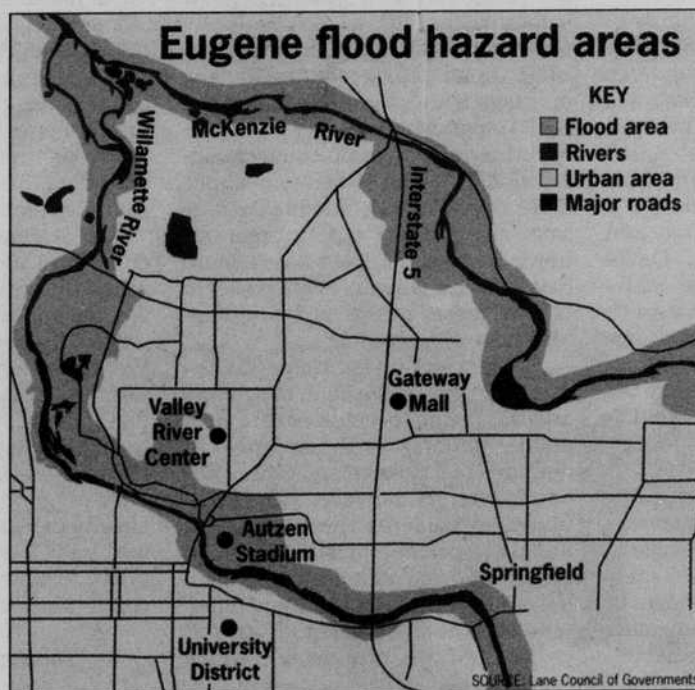
A map by the city of Eugene and the Federal Emergency Management Agency shows that Autzen Stadium and nearby apartment complexes could experience great damage in the event of a massive flood.

According to the map, the stadium and surrounding areas lays in a 100-year floodplain, giving those facilities a 1 percent chance of enduring a major flood every year.

Most of the University is located on a hill and rests outside of the floodplain. Most likely, problems on campus during a flood would result from water runoff, said Paul Bruch, University facilities specialist.

Water will run into the Mill-race, flooding areas near the Willamette River. This may affect University buildings in that area, including Facilities Services and the power plant.

Basements of campus buildings may be damaged if storm water systems are blocked and cause localized flooding, said Andre LeDuc, program director of Oregon Natural



This manufactured-home park's drywell-based storm drainage system was unable to keep up with the excess of water in the flood of 1996.

Hazards Workgroup.

Students living in basements of older houses near campus may also experience flooding, Solin said.

Assessing the risk

A 100-year flood has washed through the Eugene area before.

FLOOD, page 16

Apartment sale verdict looms; foes multiply

As the University seeks to sell Westmoreland, a senator, ASUO and the RHA oppose the move

BY MEGHANN
M. CUNIFF
NEWS EDITOR

STATE BOARD MEETING DETAILS

The Westmoreland Tenants Council's fight against the University's proposed sale of the Westmoreland Apartments has three new allies: Sen. Bill Morrisette, D-Springfield, the Residence Hall Association General Council and the ASUO.

What: The University seeks permission to sell the Westmoreland Apartments.

When: Friday at 8 a.m.

Where: The State Board of Higher Education meeting at Portland State University.

Visit www.dailymerald.com Friday afternoon for coverage of the meeting.

The RHA Council passed a motion at its meeting Monday condemning the University's efforts to sell the property and asking the State Board of Higher Education to remove the proposition to sell the apartments from Friday's meeting agenda. Morrisette sent the board a letter Tuesday asking that it postpone any action on the proposal to allow more time for discussion between tenants and the University.

The ASUO wrote a letter Wednesday to the

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Senate drops ticket-taking proposal for unruly fans

Senators opt for less severe punishments for dangerous behavior at athletic events

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

Two student government committees on Wednesday pushed aside last week's idea of revoking athletic ticket privileges for unruly students in favor of more student-friendly approaches.

Athletic Department Finance Committee Chairman Kyle McKenzie said he discovered last week that the only way to revoke student tickets is through the Student Conduct Committee.

The Student Senate also decided Wednesday night to create an ad-hoc committee to recommend a list of possible solutions regarding "unclassy fan behavior" to University President Dave Frohnmyer.

The Senate and ADFC agreed that a "major

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