

Far West: Association defers sale decision to next meeting

of the site for students is important. "The student housing element needs to be saved," she said. "The reality of that is the economics."

Williams said it will be difficult for St. Vincent to come up with the required money, which may affect the final structure of the apartments. "We may have to work with a developer so a portion of the site is market-rate housing," she said.

Some Westmoreland residents attended the meeting, and all made it clear they wanted the property to remain affordable student housing.

Williams' presence shifted the conversation to what would happen if St. Vincent acquired the property, but some students are still fighting the sale itself.

"As students, we're looking for support from homeowners and the community to fight against the sale," Westmoreland resident and University student Phyllis Haynes said.

John Dobbin, a neighborhood home owner, said he was afraid of

what would happen to his property value if "shabby housing" was put in.

"We don't want to move," Dobbin said. "We've lived here for 47 years."

Williams told Dobbin that in her experience, St. Vincent projects have improved property values, and she invited him to tour St. Vincent's buildings.

Shane Kavanaugh, chairman of the association, said the association needs to take action on the sale at its December meeting if members want their voices to be heard.

"If we want to be effective as a neighborhood association, we have to say where we sit on this," Kavanaugh said after the meeting.

"Nobody's going to want to see private development," Kavanaugh said, "but we have to decide if we outright oppose the sale. Or do we see it as inevitable and (focus on) who we want to see as stewards?"

Kavanaugh said he thought some people would be concerned that the association brought Williams, a



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Amy Murschall, secretary of the Far West Neighborhood Association, takes names for questions to be directed to Anne Williams, housing coordinator for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. Several groups met Thursday night to discuss the sale of Westmoreland Apartments and other neighborhood concerns.

representative one of the organizations trying to acquire the property, to speak at the meeting.

But Kavanaugh was confident students would be able to hold their own during the discussion.

"Outraged students know how to sell their point, too," Kavanaugh said. "We need to hear everyone's opinions before we make our decision."

Contact the city, state politics reporter at chagan@dailyemerald.com

Gleason: Talk addresses lack of federal law

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access more information without having to

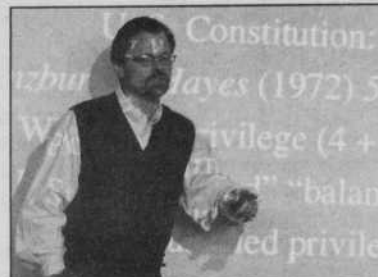
worry about being required to disclose confidential information in the future.

Gleason also touched on this point, addressing the idea that "you have to be able to have confidential sources (but) there's too much confidentiality promised as it is."

"...it's great to see this many people turn out to discuss such an important topic."

Nicole Wasowski | president, University SPJ chapter

Some journalists, however, worry that if the federal shield laws are passed, journalism could require licensing to define what a journalist is — something some considered a



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Tim Gleason, dean of the School of Journalism and Communication, speaks to students about shield law. The Society of Professional Journalists hosted the lecture Wednesday night in Allen Hall.

restriction of freedom of the press.

The problem with the journalist's assumed privilege lies in the lack of a federal law that guarantees a reporter protection from the courts if he or she refuses to release confidential sources or information, Gleason said.

Nicole Wasowski, president of the University's SPJ chapter, remarked positively on the discussion's proceedings.

"Echoing what Tim had to say, it's great to see this many people turn out to discuss such an important topic," she said.

ASUO: Attendee points out parallels to Amazon housing controversy

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focusing on what specific actions should be taken to expose what she said were the wrong things the University is doing with its plans to sell the apartments.

Community activist Zachary Vishanoff said it's crucial that everyone opposed to the sale take action immediately rather than waiting for a set game plan.

"No one wants to come together on some softball campaign when they wanted to play hardball," Vishanoff said. "I think we're wasting time every moment we don't contact NPR (National Public Radio) and The New York Times."

David Zupan of Oregonians for Affordable Housing said the group needs to keep in mind what happened with Amazon Family Housing in the mid-1990s and examine what kept those opposed to the demolition of that housing complex from stopping the University.

"We couldn't counter their (public relations campaign) enough," Zupan said.

Amazon housing was demolished

because of what University officials said were serious safety and structural problems. Opponents of the demolition formed the Save Amazon Coalition and battled the University all the way to the state Land Use Board of Appeals in an attempt to save the World War II-era housing units.

The University has formed two task groups to address the needs of students who may be displaced if Westmoreland is sold, and some students expressed concern that group membership was handpicked by the University.

Stephanie McLaughlin, ASUO's nontraditional student advocate, is a member of the group charged with addressing child care issues. The Westmoreland property includes a child-care center that likely would close should the property be sold.

McLaughlin also serves on University Housing's Family Housing Board, as does Li. The board meets today at 11 a.m. in the Bean West Conference Room to discuss the Westmoreland sale.

Contact the news editor at mcuniff@dailyemerald.com

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