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Emerald audits University records

An Emerald public records survey elicited varied responses from public officials at several University departments

BY MEGHANN CUNIFF & JARED PABEN
NEWS EDITORS

University President Dave Frohnmayer responded to records requests as a University attorney, championed them as a state representative and enforced them as Oregon Attorney General.

But a full three weeks after the Emerald conducted a records audit on the University, the

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attorneys who work immediately below Frohnmayer still haven't responded to a records request

for his salary.

On Nov. 14, the Emerald sent three reporters to various University departments to

test the University's responsiveness to Oregon public records laws, which, for more than 30 years, have entitled people to many government documents, no questions asked. These reporters, when possible, didn't identify themselves as members of the media, and they carried backpacks instead of reporter's

RECORDS, page 5A

HOW WE DID THE AUDIT

On Nov. 14, the Emerald sent three reporters, Kelly Brown, Chris Hagan and Emily Smith, to various University departments to test the University's responsiveness to Oregon public records laws.

The idea of the public records audit was to see how public officials would react if a student approached them in their offices and requested basic records, such as budget documents, meeting minutes, salary information and utility bills.

The Emerald used forms and directions from the Society of Professional Journalists and from previous records audits conducted by The Oregonian newspaper as a model.

The reporters didn't carry notepads or wear press passes, and most wore backpacks as further visual cues that they were students. When possible, they declined to give their names and identify themselves as employees of the Emerald because Oregon laws don't require them to give their names, employers or reasons for wanting records.

They dressed and acted professionally, but they didn't discuss what

the law requires because most students probably don't know details of Oregon public records laws.

The idea of the audit was to test whether public officials release records that are clearly disclosable. The idea was not to start a fight over whether the records can legally be released.

So the Emerald contacted Kevin Neely, from Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers' office; Jud Randall, Portland State University's adviser for The Vanguard student-run newspaper and a former editor for The Oregonian; and Ryan Frank, a reporter for The Oregonian. All three confirmed that the records requested should be disclosable.

If the reporters were told to contact someone else or put a request in writing, they did. If somebody a reporter needed to talk to was out of the office, he or she returned later.

They didn't take notes while in the presence of a responding official, but they took notes immediately after leaving the office.

Contact News Editor Jared Paben or Editor in Chief Parker Howell at 541-346-5511 with questions about how the audit was conducted.

RECORDS REQUESTED

Staff meeting minutes for the psychology department: received.

Department of Public Safety incident report: received.

Budget records of the security costs for Finals Week at the Knight Library: received.

Budget documents for the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art: received.

October's electricity bill for the EMU: received.

October's water bill for the Student Recreation Center: received.

Gas costs for the past year for facility services vehicles: received.

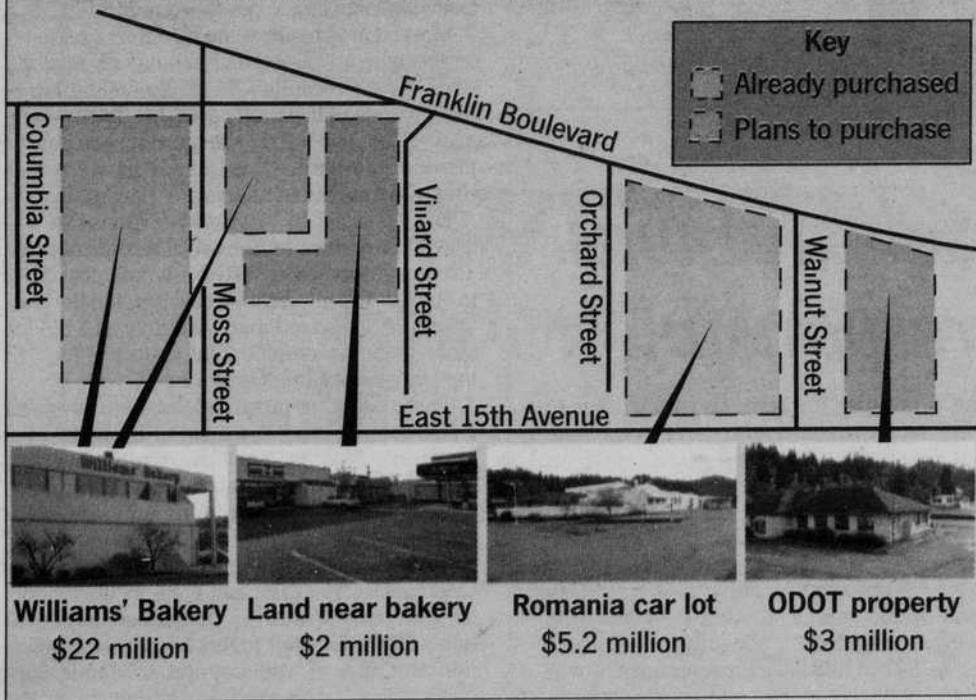
The Athletics Department's contract with the Eugene Police Department regarding security at home football games: not received.

Documentation of University President Dave Frohnmayer's salary: not received.

Travel expenses for an administrator's trip to Georgia: no records exist.

Report analyzes development options

Franklin Boulevard 'land bank'



CHRIS TODD | GRAPHIC ARTIST

A study released by an urban planning firm calls for a comprehensive property plan

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
NEWS EDITOR

It's a goal of the University administration to build a land bank in the east campus area for future administrations to use, and progress at fulfilling that goal has been steady.

The University hopes to build a sports arena on the Williams Bakery site, purchased in February for more than \$22 million, and the UO Foundation bought the Joe Romania car lot east of the bakery site in March for \$5.2 million. Officials want to purchase the state-owned property across from the car lot on Walnut Street, which Senior Vice President and Provost John Moseley said has been estimated to cost about \$3 million.

This property acquisition is crucial to the University's future development of the area, according to a report released by the urban planning firm The Farkas Group.

PROPERTY, page 8A

UO professor develops new form of carbon

Graphyne, a unique form of carbon created by professor Mike Haley, could be used to improve optical communication networks

BY EVA SYLWESTER
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

University chemistry professor Mike Haley made the front cover of Friday's issue of the Journal of Organic Chemistry for assembling a new form of the element carbon.

His research could potentially lead to improvements in optical communications networks and even better batteries for everyday use.

By itself, carbon appears in nature as graphite or diamond.

The difference between these two forms of carbon has to do with the shape in which the

carbon atoms are arranged. Graphite is a series of flat Y shapes that join to form repeating series of hexagons. Diamond is a three-sided pyramid. The different atom arrangements result in different physical properties.

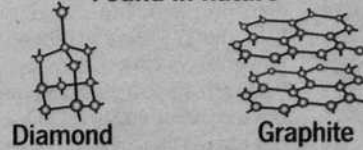
Haley created something called graphyne, which is similar to graphite, but three legs of each hexagon are stretched out.

Jeremiah Marsden, a former doctoral student who worked with Haley on the project, linked these pieces of graphyne into a larger network

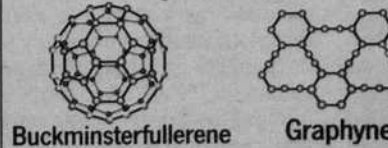
CARBON, page 3A

Forms of carbon

- Found in nature -



- Synthesized -



CHRIS TODD | GRAPHIC ARTIST

DPS audit raises issues of financial liability

The Oregon University System is auditing the Department of Public Safety's operations

BY JARED PABEN
NEWS EDITOR

An Oregon University System office is conducting an audit of the University's Department of Public Safety for the first time in at least five years, according to the University and OUS.

The OUS Internal Audit Division is currently auditing the public safety department's parking operations, which is funded through parking permits, fees and citations.

General Counsel to the University Melinda Grier wouldn't say what prompted the audit or whether missing funds triggered it. Calls and e-mails to DPS Interim Director Tom Hicks were not returned.

Grier wrote that University Vice President for Finance and Administration Frances Dyke "communicated with all appropriate individuals and contacted OUS internal audit."

Dyke issued a memorandum to all faculty and staff on Nov. 10, reminding them that the Policy on Financial Irregularities requires "employees of the Oregon University System to report known or suspected financial irregularities to the appropriate department manager at the time they become aware of an incident. The department manager is then responsible for forwarding the report to the institutional designated administrator in a timely manner."

DPS AUDIT, page 12A

Coalition will detail feelings against sale

In a meeting Tuesday, students will voice concerns to elected officials about Westmoreland

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
NEWS EDITOR

The mayor of Eugene and the city manager will join the newly formed Save Westmoreland Coalition Tuesday night to discuss the University's intent to sell Westmoreland Apartments.

The Save Westmoreland Coalition is made up of representatives of various student and community groups that are opposed to the University's intent to sell the 404-unit complex.

University student Tesia Blonski hopes the meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday in the EMU Fir Room, will reiterate the coalition's opposition to the sale and will give more elected officials a chance to hear student concerns.

"It's basically just a public forum to be like 'this is exactly what the University has presented to us, and this is exactly why it doesn't work for us,'" Blonski said.

Blonski said the University's plans to help the

WESTMORELAND, page 4A