

Planning commission thwarts Wards's move

The Eugene Planning Commission turned down a request Monday night to rezone the area between the Willamette River and Valley River Center. The request, made by the Montgomery Ward Co., would have changed the zoning of the area from agricultural use to commercial use.

The proposed change would have made development of the area north of the Willamette River and west of Valley River Center possible. Montgomery Ward proposed building a two-story department store and adding 1,070 parking spaces for customers.

Objections to the zoning change, from both Commission members and the audience, centered around various environmental concerns. Development of the area, it was feared, would hinder development of a greenway system (linear parks or corridors) along the Willamette River.

Several people present expressed the fear that development of a large parking area would intrinsically favor the automobile over expanded mass transit or other alternative methods of transportation, such as bicycles. Some fear was also voiced that private development would lessen public access to the river.

The principal reason for denying the request, however, was that the applicants had shown no overriding reason for the development near Valley River. The Montgomery Ward Company presently has a building in downtown Eugene. It was also pointed out that there is available land already zoned for commercial purposes, and thus no need to rezone agricultural land.

In other business Monday, the Planning Commission discussed a proposed amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance. The amendment would permit the zoning of "special districts." These special districts would make it possible for unique or special areas in the city to be recognized and preserved. The uses permitted in the special district would be in accordance with whatever makes the area unique. The immediate concern of the amendment is the 5th Avenue area of Eugene, which is an old railroad area and the site of the old Eugene Granary.

However, the special district concept could also be applied to riverfront land and unique residential areas, as well as areas of historical interest. It was suggested by a member of the audience that older University area houses might be zoned this way in order to prevent high-rise apartments from dominating the older areas.

Commission members stressed, however, that the special district amendment should not make it possible for all residential areas to be zoned this way. Only neighborhoods with identifying unique characteristics would be considered. Applications would be subject to intensive study and review. The amendment was left to further study, because the language concerning qualification for residential areas was not entirely clear.

Inside jobs help CSPA students learn

By DAVID NOVICK
Of the Emerald

Not all student interaction with state and local agencies comes from the client perspective. Some students work inside the organizations, in a quest for understanding of the problems of society and their solutions.

Juniors and seniors in Com-

munity Service and Public Affairs (CSPA) gain this sort of involvement through the efforts of the CSPA Field Instruction Unit (FIU).

Students work as full-time employees of community programs, 32 to 36 hours a week, with credit as compensation — aside from educational and spiritual benefits. Additionally, they spend some time each week, usually around four hours, in interactive seminars with other students in different placements.

Each placement lasts one term, and most students ordinarily have two — one during their junior year and one during their senior year, with the possibility of a third.

If the student does elect to work in the field for a third term, that term will likely be over the summer.

Coordinating field placements for the FIU this summer and through the year are Anita Runyan and Bruce Longstroth, both visiting assistant professors in CSPA.

Working out of a pleasant office near downtown at 13th and Lawrence, Runyan and Longstroth arrange for and supervise the Unit's placements — with agencies as diverse as the State Welfare Division and Whitebird Clinic, Childrens Services Division and Head Start. Each is responsible for a particular group of students, and handles agency liaison functions

DA Horton likes new pot legislation

Lane County District Attorney Pat Horton is "extremely pleased" with the marijuana legislation just passed by the Oregon Legislature. The new law reduces the penalty for use or possession of less than one ounce of marijuana to a maximum of \$100 fine.

The law, to go into effect in 90 days, now makes possession of less than an ounce of marijuana a violation rather than a crime, Horton said. Thus, "an offender will no longer have to report arrests on school or job applications."

"It is particularly encouraging that our state is the leader in . . . the field of marijuana legislation," Horton added, an early advocate of the legislation.

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