

## Voter registration easy, available on election day

Voter registration for the general election in November will be easier this year than ever before.

Voters may register by mail using the "postcard registration." This system, enacted by the 1975 legislature, allows voters to send in pertinent information to the County Elections Department. Or, as before, voters may come into the office at Seventh and Oak Streets and register in person — until 5 p.m. the day of the election.

Under Oregon law, you may register to vote if you are a citizen of the U.S., if you will be 18 or older on election day, and if you are an Oregon resident. However, in order to vote, you must be an Oregon resident for 30 days before election day.

You must re-register if your address changes for any reason, if your name changes for any reason or if you wish to change political affiliation.

There are 137,000 registered voters in Lane County, and that, says Lane County Elections Director Don Penfold, is the largest voter registration in history. He says the county vote is approximately 10 per cent of the state total. Lane County voters are predominantly Democrat, he says, with approximately 85,000 registrants. There are approximately 45,000 Republicans, and 5,000 Independents.

Lane County is one of 19 Oregon counties with a computerized registration system. There is no central computer bank, however, and voter registration remains one of the primary county responsibilities.

by Rick Bella

## Governmental co-op discusses regional problems and planning

When the Central Lane Planning Commission was formed in 1945, many people couldn't see the value of the organization. But for those who agree that planning is what has made Eugene one of the best cities to live in today, much of the credit must go to the Lane Council of Governments (L-COG).

L-COG is made up of representatives of the elected local governments, including Lane County, Eugene, Springfield, small municipalities, and special districts — such as school and recreation boards.

L-COG's best known work is the 1990 Plan, a system of patterned growth for the Eugene-Springfield area to be followed through 1990. It is not a legally-binding plan, however, and it is subject to periodic revision to reflect the changing goals of Lane County residents.

L-COG is different from other inter-governmental councils in the state because participation in L-COG is voluntary. It operates on grants from the state and federal governments, as well as dues assessed of its members by population. And that, L-COG officials say, is an important concept. Since they try to collect dues according to population, they also try to let people have a chance to give them input in the planning process. For that reason, 14 citizen advisory groups have been formed on such issues as transportation, health, housing, and aging.

by Rick Bella



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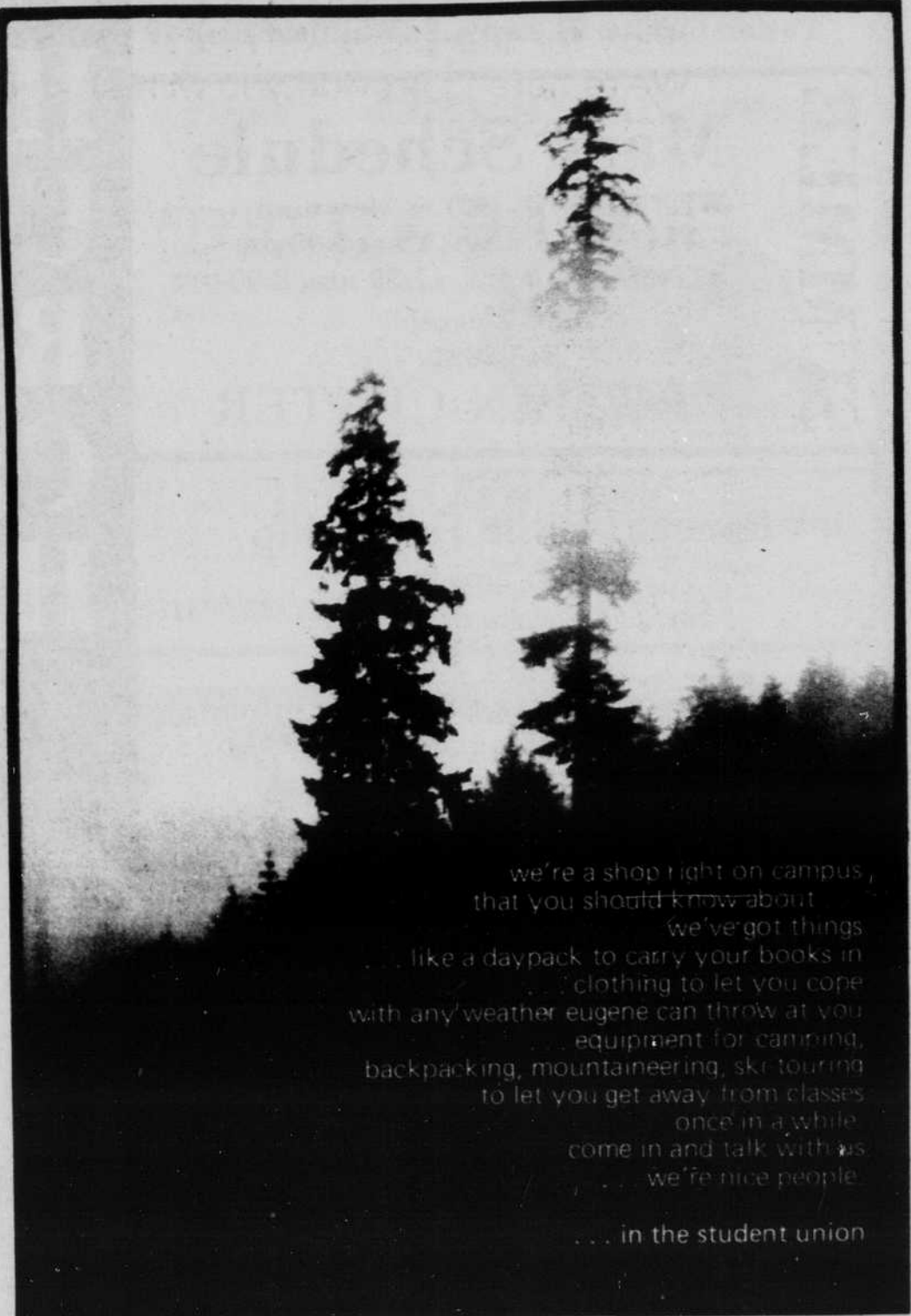
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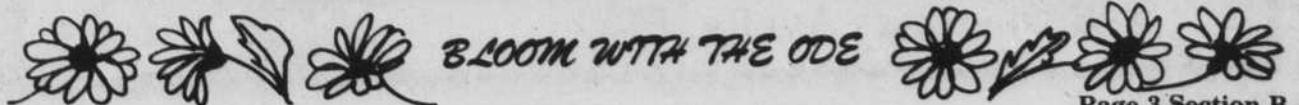
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