

New health plan stresses preventative care

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

3 CSPA students assist in promotion

A new emphasis on health care in Lane County and in most of Oregon may be placed on preventative rather than on more diversified care, according to a plan that will set guidelines for health care in Western Oregon.

The Health Systems Plan, a five-year plan developed by hundreds of Oregonians over the past year and designed to improve and contain health care's rising costs, will play a major role in the establishment of future health care around the state.

The plan was created through citizen input into a federally mandated nonprofit corporation called the Western Oregon Health Systems Agency (HSA).

Out of nearly 200 HSA organizations throughout the United States, Oregon has three, located in Portland, Eastern Oregon and Western Oregon. Each HSA is developing a similar regional health plan with the aid of subarea organizations made up of counties within the HSA boundaries.

Scott Campbell, coordinator of the Lane County subarea advisory council, explained that the subarea organizations are composed of groups and volunteers from a 12-county region, which is part of the Eugene-based HSA.

Campbell and a 31-member advisory council presented the

formulated HSA plan last week to the public for review before the final public hearing on the plan on Dec. 19.

Of those members, three University students have been working with the subarea council to develop a strategy for increased citizen participation in the health planning process.

Kathy Rubaloff, Simran Khalsa and Eva Smekens, all members of the Citizen Participation class of CSPA, have been working closely with Campbell and the council on the HSA plan.

Most of the work provided by the students, Khalsa says, is in the area of making the public aware of the proposed plan.

Although there was a large amount of citizen input into the plan during its development, Rubaloff explains that more will be needed before the plan is set into action.

"We're mainly concerned with the people here at the University," she says. "This is a big community of people who will be interested in the plan because of what it could mean to their health care in the future."

Philosophically, Rubaloff explains, the top priority of the proposed plan is the promotion of good health through preventative health care. "One of the main thrusts of

the entire HSA is to promote healthiness. That's not the only thrust, but it is a main one, because most people don't use health care facilities until they get sick, and then it's too late to do anything about the kind of care they get," she says.

If promoting healthiness isn't the area most people are interested in, health care costs also come into the HSA proposal, Campbell says.

One role of the HSA is to develop grants to meet the needs of area hospitals under the HSA jurisdiction, he says. Because the HSA has been mandated by federal law, it has authority over state nursing homes and hospitals, which must go through the HSA board of directors to apply for more money for needed equipment.

"When hospitals ask for money, the HSA board reviews that request and asks the hospitals to

demonstrate a community need for that money or that piece of equipment," Campbell explains, "which is a good way to keep the costs down."

With the large role consumers play under the proposed HSA plan, there has been some concern it might become a watch-dog bureaucracy. "Nobody knows for certain where the federal legisla-

tion will take the HSA, but we certainly don't want it to become another federal bureaucracy," Campbell explains.

Copies of the inch-thick report are available to the public for a little more than \$8 to cover the printing and binding costs, Campbell says. Other copies open to public review can be obtained at several sites around Eugene and Lane County, or by calling the HSA subarea advisory council office at 687-4041.

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Yale poll to study reactions to wildlife

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

Yale University will interview 3,000 Americans on their attitudes toward wildlife and natural areas, in a three-year study that began in November.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded a grant for the study to Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The principal investigator will be Stephen Kellert, senior research assistant and authority on public attitudes toward wildlife.

"This is a bold new step for the Fish and Wildlife Service," says Director Lynn Greenwalt. "Never before have we undertaken such a large-scale effort to determine the human dimension that affects wildlife management."

"Knowledge of human attitudes and perceptions about wildlife and their habitat can be just as valuable to wildlife management practices as is the latest waterfowl population," Greenwalt says. "This new knowledge will fill a serious void."

Those persons interviewed will be randomly selected, with 2,700 over age 18 and 300 under age 18.

They will be asked questions involving:

- The size, distribution, social characteristics and attitudes of key wildlife interests groups such as birdwatchers, backpackers, trappers and hunters.
- Public perceptions of endangered species and the impact from energy exploration and development.
- The identification of crucial stages in the development of young people's attitudes toward wildlife and the implications for environmental education.
- The extent to which factors such as education, occupation, place of birth and present residence (urban vs. rural) influence attitudes toward wildlife.

Preliminary results of the study are expected in June, 1979.

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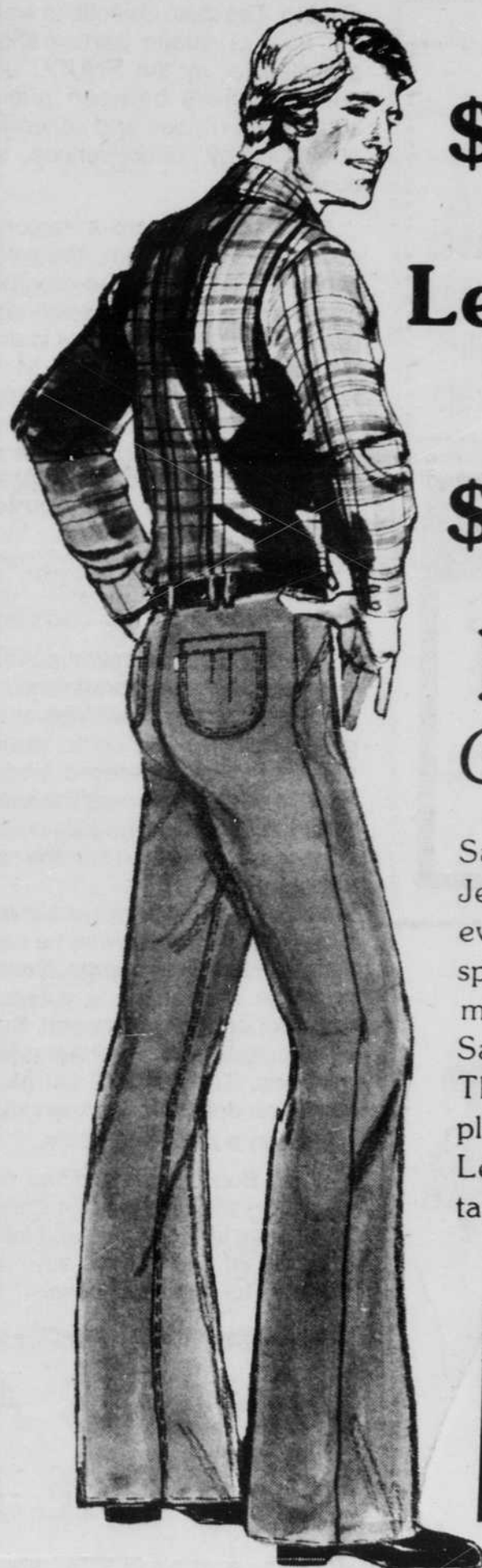
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