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Billboard gallery:

Art works catch eyes of motorists

Eugene and Springfield residents tired of looking at the same advertising from billboard to billboard will see something new this month.

A two year project by the Visual Arts Resources (VAR) department of the University Museum of Art to promote works by Oregon artists took the form of billboard art during the holiday vacation. Four billboards in the Eugene-Springfield area will be covered with art works by four Oregon artists.

The project was started nearly two years ago as a way for art to reach a large segment of the general public by Michael Whitenack, supervisor for statewide services with the Museum of Art on campus.

Whitenack, also the director of the VAR program, opened the competition for billboard space to artists last summer and received more than 150 entries from state artists.

The four designs, which range from graphics and watercolors to silkscreen, are the works of Haley Jessup, now of Berkeley, Calif.; Lorraine Krol, now of Escondido, Calif.; James Mattingly, Dallas, Ore. and Scott McIntire, Portland.

Each of the artists received a cash award of \$250 for their winning entries. The money was part of funding from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The billboards, which are donated on a space-available basis during slow advertising months by the Obie Communications and the Ackerley Communications companies, are located at Beltline Road and Northwest Expressway, Highway 99 and Fairfield Street, McKinley Street and W. 11th Avenue in Eugene and 14th and Main Streets in Springfield.

Unless advertisers buy the billboard space, the art works will be up for about a month.

This landscape by Lorraine Krol, formerly of Oregon and now of Escondido, Calif., is on display at the corner of McKinley St. and W. 11th Avenue. Krol's painting is one of four artistic billboards that can be found decorating Eugene-Springfield roadways. The billboards are part of an experimental program sponsored

by the Visual Arts Resources department of the University Museum of Art. The billboards are part of an attempt by program coordinators to introduce art to a mass audience. The coordinators hope to take advantage of the advertising medium to stimulate interest in art and sales of artwork in Oregon.

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Underfunding blamed for money woes

By RICH SEVEN
of the Emerald

Lieuallen to plead with state board for emergency funds to ease blind

Roy Lieuallen, chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, will ask the state emergency board Jan. 25-26 for additional funds to ease the higher education budget problems.

At the core of the problem is a legislative budgeting method known as "underfunding". This occurs when the Legislature pur-

posely doesn't appropriate enough money for state agencies' authorized expenses. Underfunding is based on the theory that salary savings will occur when positions are held vacant because of employee turnover throughout the school year.

Lieuallen says higher education was underfunded for salaries by \$2.6 million in the 1975-77 biennium.

However, to the chagrin of higher education, the amount underfunded in 1975 was not carried forward, thereby reducing the budget for the 1977-79 biennium.

"We simply didn't anticipate the Legislature would make this a tradition and do it again in 1977," says Lieuallen. "Maybe we should have." Because the amount underfunded in 1975 was not carried forward, higher education's budget was greatly reduced for the 1977-79 biennium.

"In order to reduce the impact of the legislative salary underfund-

ing on the state system budget, we withheld academic salaries for two months," Lieuallen says.

"If the underfunding is carried over biennium after biennium, we will get a base budget of zero. I don't think that's the intention of underfunding."

By deferring the academic salaries, the loss due to underfunding was reduced to about \$1.4 million for the 1975-77 biennium.

At the heart of the problem is the way the Legislature treats the higher education budget, according to Lieuallen. Unlike other state agencies, which build base budgets for personnel services from the number of authorized positions they have, higher education budget is determined by its dollar total.

When other state agencies begin their new bienniums, they

are appropriated funds on the number of approved positions they have," Lieuallen explains. "Their underfunding from the previous biennium is left out. The one percent underfunding is then taken from that 100 percent budget base.

"However, our dollar amount is reduced each biennium and not restored," Lieuallen says. "If the underfunding is carried over biennium after biennium, we will get a base budget of zero. I don't think that's the intention of underfunding."

The "base" of higher education's budget is currently about \$1.25 million short of what it should have been if the oversight had not occurred.

The cumulative effect of underfunding now stands at \$4.4 million-including \$3.2 million projected for this biennium.

"The emergency board is our only source of relief," Lieuallen says. "If we don't find help from the emergency board, further reductions will have to occur in our state systems. The schools must stay within their budgets."

Emergency repairs of boilers approved

The State Board of Higher Education decided last month to ask the state emergency board for an additional \$62,000 to repair the power generation system of the University Power Plant so it will comply with state safety codes.

Officials of the building codes division of the State of Oregon Department of Commerce have urged that the corrections be made as soon as possible. According to Jack Hunderup, vice-chancellor for facilities planning, an equipment failure could cause irreparable damage to the boilers and perhaps cause a boiler explosion that would injure the plant's employees.

Commissioned engineers have estimated the total cost for the repair will reach \$178,000. Sixty-five percent of that amount or \$116,000 was allocated as part of a \$980,000 life and safety program.

The initial expenditure limitation authorized for phase one of the Safety Deficiency Correction Program did not anticipate the total cost of the operation, making it necessary for the board to apply for the additional funds.