

Update details alternatives

New plans emerge

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

The alternatives, an update of the Metropolitan 1990 Plan adopted seven years ago, include plans for further expansion of existing city limits, more densely populated areas of the cities and even plans for energy conservation through concentrated growth. The Lane Council of Governments and the Metropolitan Area Planning Advisory Committee unveiled the plan.

The 1990 Plan was first approved by the Eugene and Springfield city councils in 1972. It was established as the official long-range growth plan for metropolitan Lane County and was to be amended every five years.

Although the alternatives have been proposed two years past that deadline, they represent more than a year's work by L-COG and MAPAC planners and advisors, says L-COG planner Mike Yeager.

The alternatives consist of three plans, each detailing the size and direction of the cities' growth. The plans are based on present growth rates and projected needs for the Eugene-Springfield area before the year 2000.

Of the three alternatives, only one will become part of the revised 1990 Plan. The choice of which plan to follow during the next 11 years will be made during the next year, Yeager says.

The alternatives are being released today to allow the public time to study and evaluate their intentions, he explains. The general public as well as elected officials from all over Lane County will be given a chance to voice their ideas about the alternatives at an informal public hearing Feb. 17.

The alternatives are divided by density inside the existing boundaries for Eugene and Springfield.

Under the low density proposal, housing and other development averages about five units per acre. The medium density proposal puts that development at nearly eight units per acre. The high density proposal averages almost nine units per acre.

Establishing the alternatives was done by dividing the two cities into 71 "analysis zones" for comparison between the projected growth and growth after Jan. 1, 1977, the plan says. Each zone was studied for such things as limitations to growth and exposure to the sun for possible development of solar energy, Yeager says.

Each alternative contains land set aside for industrial development, including plans for the growth of non-polluting light industrial use by electronics manufacturers or other industries.

Under the proposals, each alternative will require more than 2,000 acres for industrial use, more than 600 acres for commercial

use and more than 10,000 acres for residential construction.

The low density alternative would require the most acreage for residential use, with 15,980 new acres for construction. That equals nearly four dwelling units per acre.

Energy use would be increased under that alternative because of the distance between residential and commercial development, Yeager says.

The medium density alternative would require 10,485 new acres for residential growth, or nearly six dwelling units per acre.

The high density alternative might be the most energy efficient, Yeager says, because it would require 9,480 new acres for residential development. With more than six new dwelling units per acre, Yeager says the energy used for travel between commercial and residential areas would be less than the other two alternatives.

In the face of continuing energy shortages, Yeager says the high density alternative would also be best because it would allow for the growth of smaller, more concentrated residential areas that could be served by neighborhood grocery and department stores.

The medium and high density proposals would also encourage the use of more non-automobile transportation such as bicycles or buses, Yeager says.

Nursing program reaches Eugene

Registered nurses in the Eugene-Springfield area can now complete baccalaureate degrees at the University through a nursing outreach program beginning this term.

The program, sponsored jointly by the Health Sciences Center and the University, is funded with a \$35,000 grant from the Oregon Board of Nursing education fund. "Prior to this program, there was not a school outside of Portland or Ashland convenient for nurses to get their B.S. degree," nursing outreach director Ethel Griffith says.

The proposal for the program was put before the Legislature a year ago. The Legislature recently approved funding the program, and Dr. Carol Lindeman, dean of UOHS, and University Pres. William Boyd, developed the details of the program.

According to Griffith, there is a growing desire in the nursing profession for consistency — to have the bachelor of science degree as a minimum requirement for nursing.

At present, licensed nurses are not required to have a degree. By 1985, Griffith says, the American

Nursing Association will recommend that a B.S. should be the entry level for nursing.

The nursing outreach program at the University, however, is only available to already licensed nurses.

Classes are taught by UOHS faculty. Classrooms, office space, and library space for books are being provided by the University at no charge.

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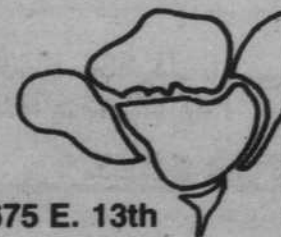


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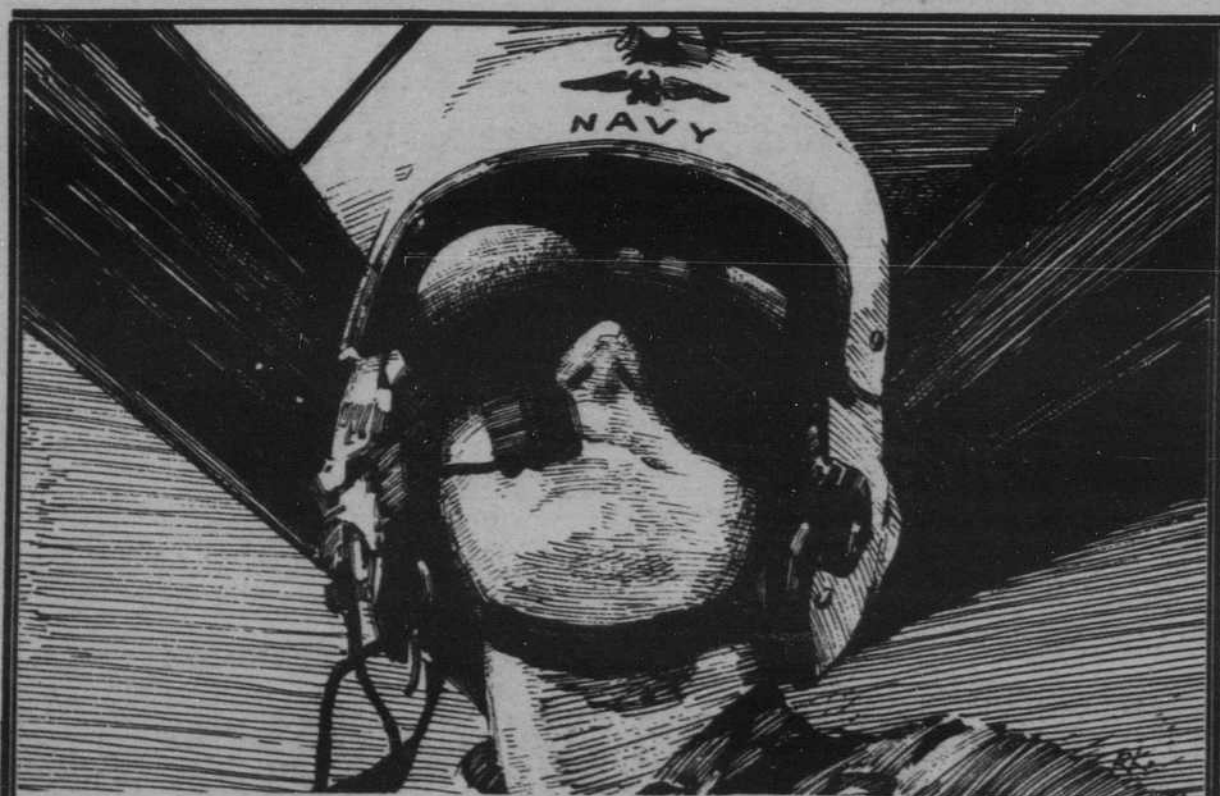
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