



Photo by Keith Allen

Political Science Prof. Dan Goldrich hopes to aid the return of local political leverage through establishing a community development corporation in the Whiteaker neighborhood.

Political science prof puts ideas to work in Whiteaker

By JACK CONDLIFFE
Of the Emerald

Community economic development offers one of the few available solutions to a number of U.S. economic crises, according to University political science professor Dan Goldrich.

Goldrich is testing that idea with practice in the Whiteaker neighborhood, which is working to found a Community Development corporation that would set up cheap, affordable cooperative housing and acquire property for business development.

Goldrich says communities are extremely dependent on "global" corporations.

"That dependency means a community's fate is in the hands of absentee decision-makers," he says, adding that these decision-makers have an "exploit and run" attitude.

The purpose of establishing a

CDC in the Whiteaker Neighborhood, Goldrich continues, "is to gain leverage over local resources to make the economy function on behalf of local needs."

The acquisition of property for development, Goodrich says, would be used to develop business wanted by community residents. He says residents would be able to use criteria that corporations often ignore, such as land use and environmental concerns.

But the actual acquisition of property and development of cooperative housing probably is still a year off, at least, Goldrich says. He explains that a tremendous amount of groundwork remains.

determine residents' attitudes about the kind of development they would like to see, Goldrich is offering a class in which students will do field work

in the Whiteaker Neighborhood as well as study the general issues involved in community economic development.

Goldrich views the class, entitled "Community Politics" (PS 491), as an opportunity for students to work in one of the most dynamic of Eugene's neighborhood groups. "This is an organized opportunity for students interested in the community to work with the Whiteaker neighborhood through the University," he says.

In the meantime, the Whiteaker Community Council is studying funding possibilities for its proposed projects. Currently, the neighborhood receives federal Community Block Grant funds and Goldrich has received a National Science Foundation grant for his participation in the neighborhood group's efforts.

Possible funding sources for the housing cooperative, according to Goldrich, include the Federal Housing Act of 1950 and programs administered by the State Housing Authority. For property acquisition and development, the neighborhood is currently looking to the Small Business Administration.

Goldrich hopes the groundwork, which he says is being done slowly and methodically, will help alleviate concerns city officials and other neighborhood organizations have over Whiteaker neighborhood's plans.

"Since this is precedent setting in Eugene," says Goldrich, "There's been some apprehension over its feasibility. We need to develop these plans on a sound basis and to communicate the need and the soundness to other people, including city officials."

Teacher corps gets \$111,445 to bolster 4-J

The U.S. Office of Education has granted \$111,445 to the University for support of the Teacher Corps Training Program — a federal effort to improve education for the poor — in the Churchill region of the Eugene School District 4-J.

According to Richard Arends, professor of education and co-director of the TCTP, the federal government provides the funding in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which requires equal education for all persons. The current focus of the program, he says, is to re-train teachers already teaching in schools in low income areas.

The University's role in the local project is two-fold, Arends says.

First, it is working with teachers at Churchill High School and Jefferson and Kennedy Junior High Schools, providing in-service advice on curriculum development and new teaching strategies.

Secondly, he says, the University is training four "corpsmen," chosen from a national pool in much the same way as Peace Corps volunteers, to serve as intern teachers in the same schools. At the end of two years the corpsmen who also do graduate study, will be eligible for a master's degree from the University, Arends says.

This year marks the 12th cycle of TCTP since its inception in 1965, according to Arends. Half of the funding is allotted to the University and half to the School District 4-J, he says.

Co-director of the TCTP is Bill Kutz of the 4-J district.

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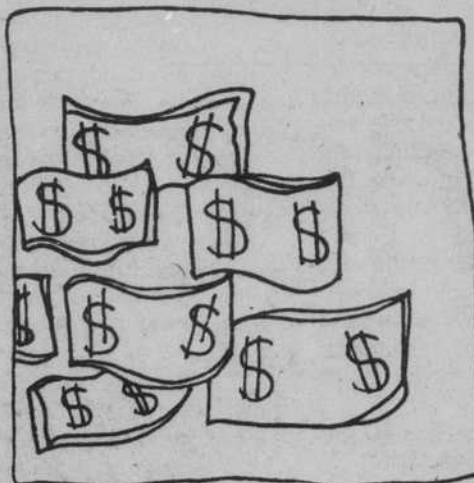
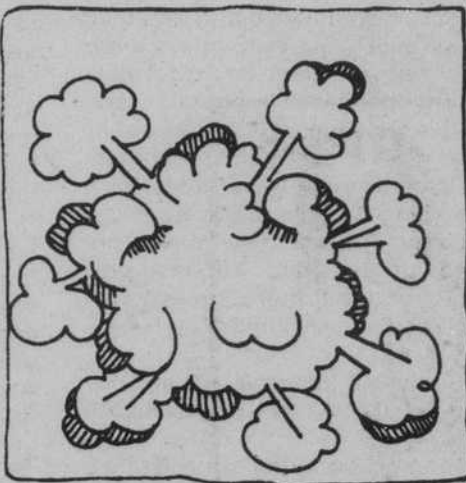
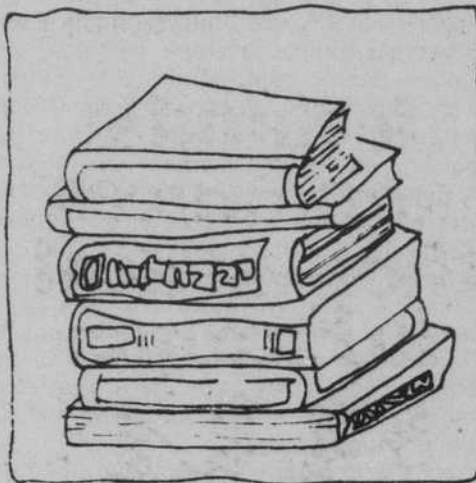
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