

Paratransit: less smog, congestion

By NANCYANN LOFGREN
Of the Emerald

Paratransit (alternatives to the one person — one car syndrome) is in the planning stage now but should be a household word — and practice — soon.

"We have to cut that umbilical cord between the American people and the automobile," Duane Bischoff, a city Public Works Department administrator explains. The city plans to implement and encourage Paratransit, Bischoff says, in an effort to ease growing pollution and congestion problems here.

The Eugene Urban Carpool is one alternative to the single auto-driver dilemma.

Plans for the project say a computer will process a person's name, address, work place, and commuting time and match this information with six other people with similar living and working circumstances.

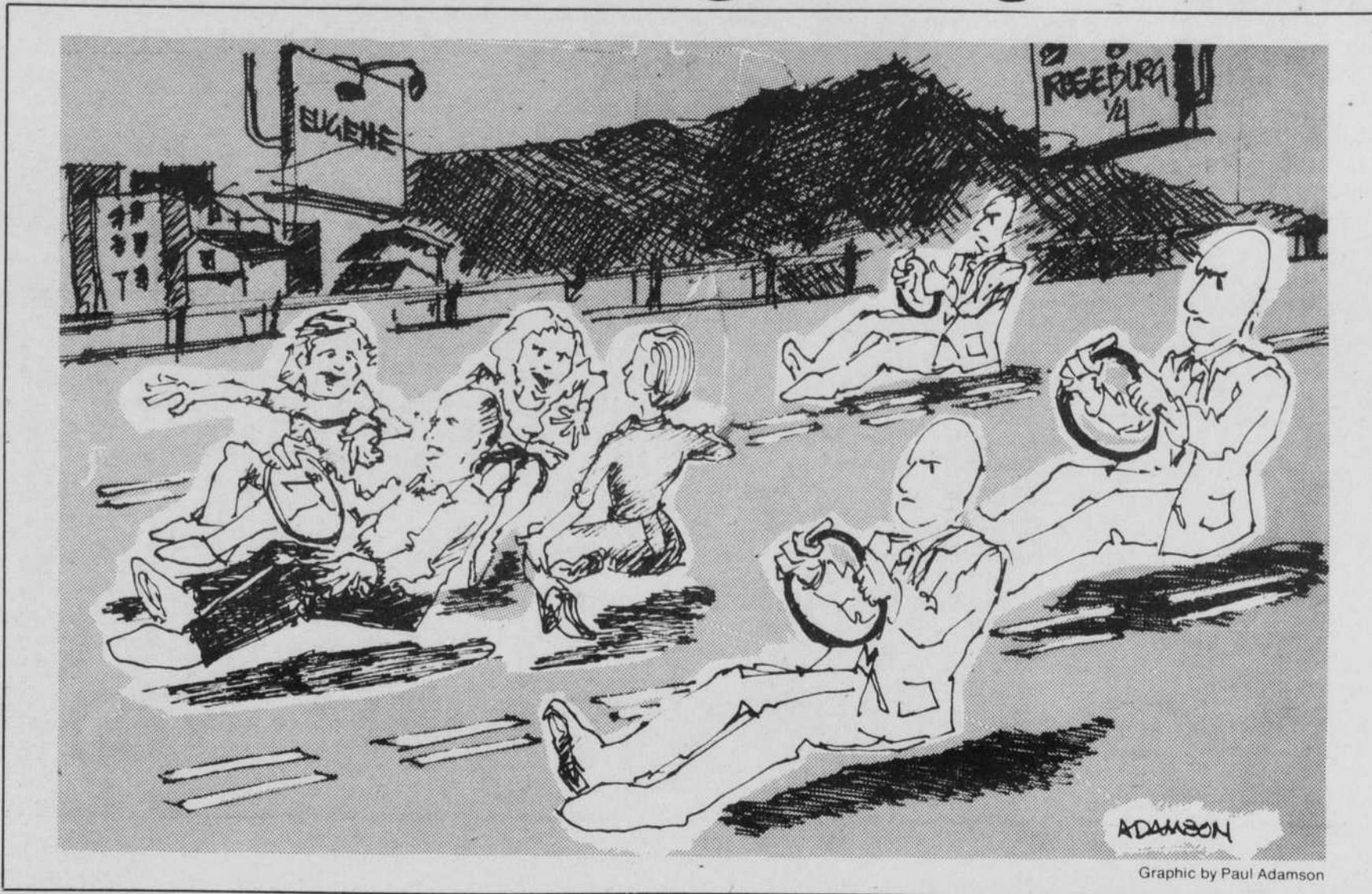
The potential carpooler receives a list of the six candidates with their telephone numbers, commuting times and other information (excluding addresses for privacy purposes).

The computer won't do all the work, though.

"The computer will assist the human," Bischoff says. A computer can't efficiently keep records up to date, or make sure a non-smoker isn't stranded with two smokers, or search beyond computer geographic boundaries, without human help.

The project results from federal grant sharing, studying other cities' transportation projects, and a computer program made by the Lane Council of Governments.

Before the project can begin, more commuting studies will be done, a coordinator must be hired, and a building needs to be rented.



Graphic by Paul Adamson

When the project begins, probably in November, government workers will be targeted for participation. Attaching notes on employees' check stubs is one method.

Other methods involve parking incentives and disincentives including preferential free parking for carpoolers and higher parking rates for non-carpoolers. In fact, non-carpoolers can expect their spaces to cost 100 percent more next year.

But participation will be the only way the project will only work, Bischoff says.

Another Eugene project, in the planning stage, is a Eugene

van-pool. Eugene will rent vans to groups of about 12 commuters who share the van's expense. This program works so well in Seattle, Wash. vans can hardly be purchased fast enough, Bischoff says.

A third project is Lane Transit District's Park-n-ride plan.

Their plan, still sketches in a notebook, offers direct, express service from 18th Avenue, Coburg Road, and South Eugene to the University during peak commuting hours, says Paul Shinn, a transit planner.

Lane Transit District will bring their plan to the University

Planning office for suggestions. If approved by the LTD budget committee, Park-n-ride will begin around September 1980, Shinn says.

The University is considering

a carpool system of its own. Their plan involves publishing names of carpoolers in the faculty magazine, Inside Oregon, says Nancy Woolum, Inside Oregon editor.

SUAB to fill board spots

Nine positions on the Student University Affairs Board are open, SUAB chairer Jess Barton has announced.

Barton said the filing deadline for applicants has been extended to Wednesday to encourage more students to apply for the positions. The previous deadline was today.

As of Friday, only two people had applied for the board. Barton said the openings haven't been publicized enough.

The SUAB consists of 18 students from different departments and schools who act as student representatives on the

University Senate. That's what makes SUAB positions appealing, Barton said.

"The interesting thing about SUAB is that it is part of student government, but it's also a part of University government. It's a blend of student and University representation, and it's something most schools don't have."

Barton said if all the positions aren't filled by election, he will have to fill them by appointment.

Barton said he will work with a smaller board if no students become available for appointment.

Positions are open for journalism/speech majors, health/physical education majors, and undeclared/pre-major students. Two positions are open in each of the following areas: Business/economics, CSPA/education, and architecture/allied arts.

The positions pay \$40 per month, plus bonus-money for extra work on committees. The job requires a minimum of five or six hours a week.

Applications may be picked up in Suite 4, EMU. Primary elections will be held Oct. 24 and 25.

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