

Senate hears debate on curriculum system

By NANCYANN LOFGREN
Of the Emerald

The University Senate passed three motions Wednesday including a call to revamp the University's curriculum system. The motions will now go to the University Assembly for final vote next Wednesday.

If passed by the Assembly, the curriculum motion will change the University's group requirements system so that entering students in 1981 will be required to take some of their classes in "clusters."

In addition, the Senate

passed a motion that would adopt a 2.0 grade point average as the University's requirement for graduation.

Because all of the motions on the agenda were not discussed, another adjourned meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday in the law school.

The cluster system, according to the proposal, would consist of a group of three or more courses related either in sequence or subject matter. Students from both the College of Arts and Sciences and students from the professional

schools and colleges would be affected by the change.

The cluster would apply to one-half of a student's group requirement. Under the present system, students can fulfill their group requirements by studying courses independent of a sequence from several departments.

The cluster system is a "partial step toward more in-depth requirements," explained Robert Berdahl, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and co-author of the motion.

Berdahl said the clusters would not necessarily be in sequence and that some would span several departments.

Some Senate members were concerned about the effects these changes would have on transfer students. Berdahl said a judgement would have to be made on the transcript, but with "somewhat more restricted" guidelines.

The Academic Requirement Committee was "distressed" by the motion, said Charlene Heimbigner of the committee. She said members were con-

cerned about the effects such a change would have on student who change majors and on undeclared majors.

History professor Mavis Mate said the new curriculum system would allow students "structured variety" and enable students to get the depth as well as the breadth in their requirements.

A majority of the Senate passed the motion accepting the cluster idea and holding judgment on the clusters themselves until they are formed.

Commissioners

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energy planner for the Whittaker Neighborhood.

Sadler's salary allotment is still available to hire an energy strategist. And, "If hiring an energy strategist works well, money could be set aside from next year's budget to hire him full time," Mackie says.

The energy program is the result of Mackie's attendance last summer at the Convention for a Solar America in Boulder, Colo., where representatives of

Mackie says. "Putting together a committee with a competent staff person (an energy strategist) is necessary."

While Mackie says organizing too large a committee can cause problems, he says 40 people should participate. The initial 15 recommended by the commissioners will probably be expanded after the three-month study period.

Members of the committee would include both private ci-

is one of the first programs in many years initiated by the county without first receiving federal funds.

The program's four study areas are:

- Transportation, which includes establishing better mass transit. Rust says nearly 50 percent of the county's petroleum use is transportation-related.
- Second is land-use planning, which Rust says is related to transportation. "Our past land-use policies have been disastrous. Urban sprawl has helped get us into this energy mess. We're building communities that need oil to get residents back and forth from work," he says.

Rust says he favors compact urban growth within boundaries Eugene and Springfield have already established.

- Solar and renewable energy are third. Rust says that two counties in California — San Diego and Santa Barbara — recently mandated that every new home built be equipped with passive solar water-heating equipment. Rust says he would also like to see banks establish low-interest loans to help people retrofit homes with solar power equipment.

In this category he includes geothermal development, wind generation, fiber waste combustion, methane production from landfills and sewer plants and neighborhood energy production projects.

- Last is emergency planning in the event of a national energy crisis. Rust says in the event of an emergency, priorities for which transportation systems will be used must be established.

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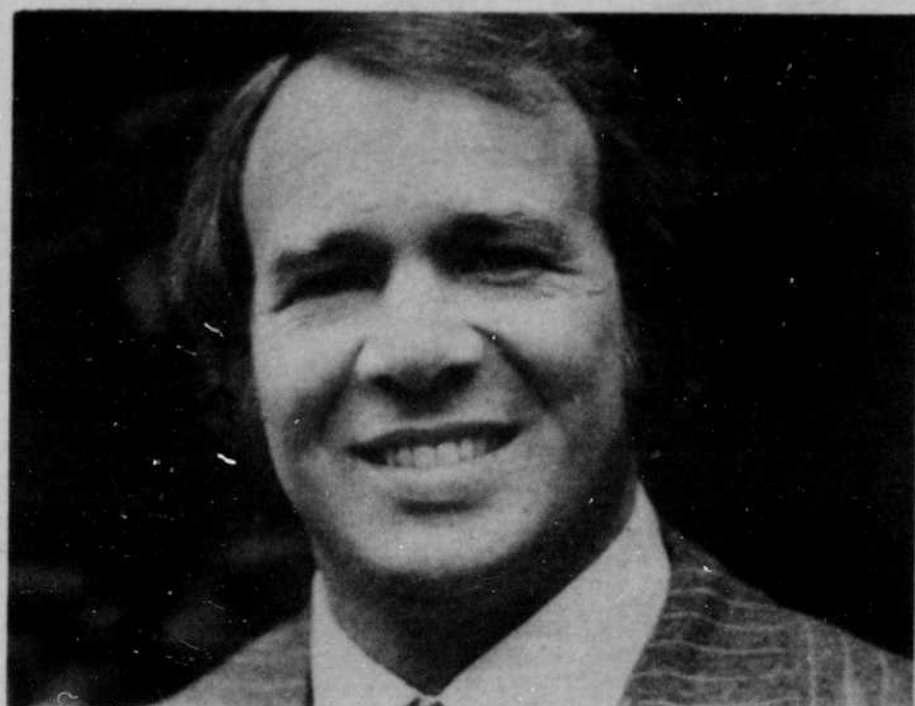
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Jerry Rust

Photo by John Harris

100 communities received instruction on establishing energy efficiency programs at the local governmental level.

"It was an intense learning experience," Mackie says.

He says he returned from the conference with enough knowledge to start Lane County down the road to a full-fledged energy program.

Mackie says that thanks to the learning experiences of other nationwide communities, the right and wrong methods of establishing a program are already known.

Among the wrong ways is taking too much time in deciding the direction of a program,

tizens and those from banks, realty, architecture firms, public utilities, agriculture, the University, small cities' environmental groups, energy consultants, alternative energy groups and other community representatives.

"Energy efficiency and the need to respond to energy problems is not just of county significance," Rust says. "It's a matter of national security," he says mentioning a letter addressed to the commissioners from Pres. Carter, which asks local governments to begin their own energy efficiency programs.

And Lane County's program

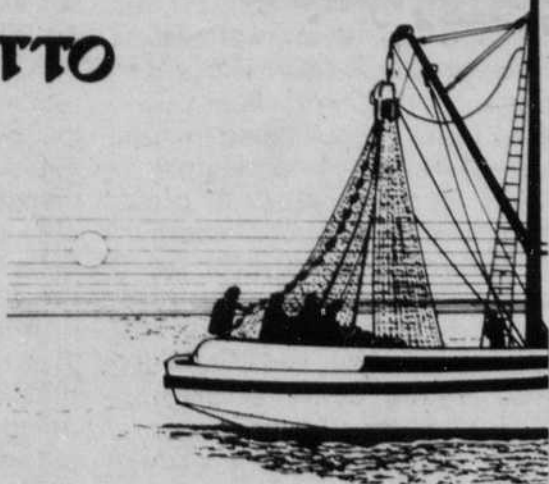
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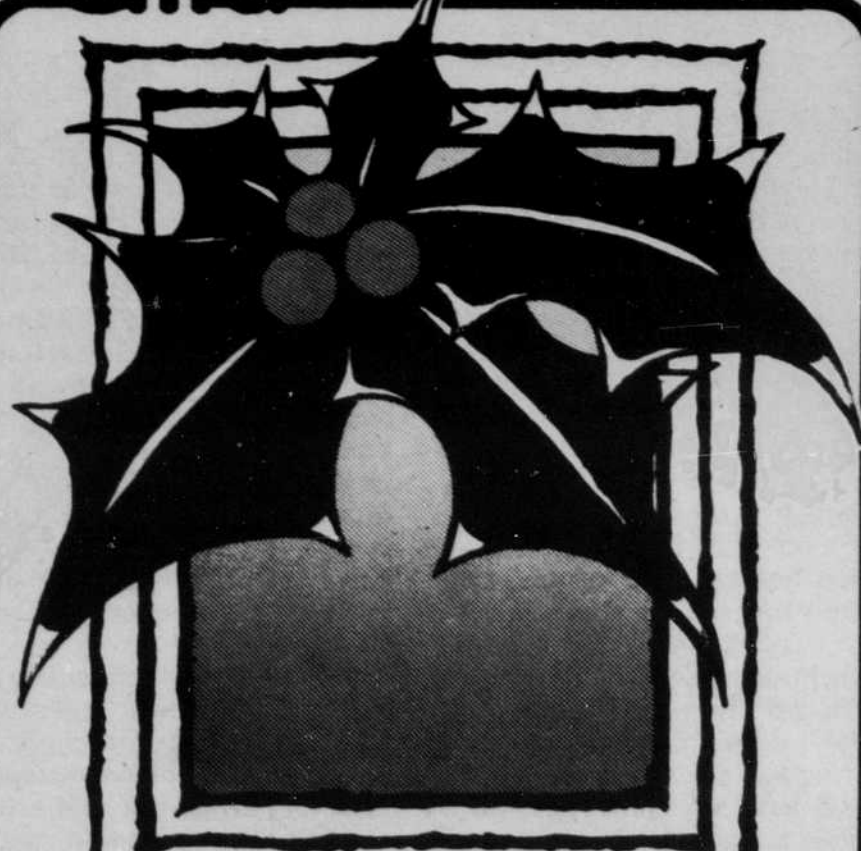
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