

Residents suggest ways for county to lure dollars

By **MARIAN GREEN**
Of the Emerald

Lane county citizens got a chance to voice their ideas for economic diversification and improvement at a meeting sponsored by the United Lane Forum Wednesday night.

The United Lane Forum, an organization open to the public that works to promote positive economic growth and diversification in Lane County, is composed of citizens, government officials and labor/business officials.

"You're here to speak to the record, which will be distributed to the decision-makers in this community," forum organizer Tom Moreland told the more than 300 audience members at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

For the next 1½ hours of the meeting, Moreland got what he asked for — citizen participation.

"All of this (economic diversification planning) is of no avail if we don't have access to a lot of creativity — that's what this meeting is about," he said.

The forum, entitled "A Healthy Economy — Why Is It Important?," included preliminary remarks by Eugene City Council member Gretchen Miller and Oregon AFL-CIO Chairman Irv Fletcher and others.

Citizens tossed out ideas calling for more positive emphasis on the community by the media, increased support for local small businesses, expanded agricultural exportation and less reliance on outside forces for community survival.

Other suggestions included advertising Lane County as an ideal industry location in national magazines and newspapers, borrowing other cities' strategies for economic development and broadening the provincial image of Oregon and Lane County to lure more industry.

Richard Hersh, University associate provost for graduate research, said the University is a "powerful magnet" for attracting industry — such as research organizations — that although labor intensive, do not require special land sites or zoning.

Furthermore, for years prior to the county's economic downturn, University scientists and researchers have talked with out-of-state organizations at conventions and seminars. Those organizations have expressed interest in locating in Eugene.

"Outside the state, we're acknowledged as one of the best research universities in the country," Hersh said, noting that many industries want to locate near universities with schools of business, science, and law.

Hersh proposed an on-campus organization to contact those types of industry.

Audience member Scott Foster received a round of applause for his plan to promote cleaner air by banning cars one Sunday a month from Lane County and to encourage self-sufficiency by growing more organic foods.

"People will travel from all over to see what we're doing here," which would bring in more outside money, Foster said. In addition, automobile ban violators would be fined \$100 (except for medical emergencies), adding even more dollars for the community.

Eugene resident B.J. Jones said he and a friend called ABC's 20-20 and Nightline programs to tell them of Lane County's economic problems and were awaiting a reply.

Jones said he wouldn't give up. "I'm from Burns, and I'm not going back. I'm staying here no matter what happens," he said enthusiastically.

The Lane Economic Forum will hold its next forum on diversification Nov. 11.

Approval is unanimous

Law clinic gets faculty OK

The faculty of the University law school voted in favor of a resolution supporting the Environmental Law Clinic Wednesday.

An hour's worth of discussion brought suggestions that, if there is no outside funding for the Pacific Northwest Resources Center, the school would be "cannibalizing itself" by recommending that funds be found regardless of extenuating circumstances.

After a "straw vote," in which two amendment proposals and several variations of the amendments were considered, the faculty decided unanimously in favor of a proposal that

incorporated suggestions from law Prof. Clark Chapin and several other faculty members.

The resolution states, in part, "If a decision is made that results in any of the present supervisory or secretarial staff leaving, or in support levels being reduced, adequate means should be found within the University funds to replace such staff or support."

Dissent arose on the use of

University funds for the clinic and a suggestion to "carry over" funds from two vacant faculty positions.

Law school dean Derrick Bell should go to Johnson Hall and get University funds out of Olum, said law prof. Fred Merrill. Merrill was a sponsor of one of the amendments.

The resolution did not mention whether the faculty supported an on-campus facility.

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