

20% cut threatens local economy

Area could lose \$18 million in campus revenue

By DONALD COULTER
Of the Emerald

If the State System of Higher Education is forced to cut its budget by 20 percent next year, 800 professors and 170-180 classified employees across the state will be out of work, while remaining system employees will have to forgo scheduled pay increases.

In addition, 10,000 students will be denied enrollment, and several professional schools and one or more of the state's eight institutions will have to close.

In other words, a 20-percent cut would have an almost unimaginable effect on higher education in Oregon.

"Moving to this lower level of service in a single year virtually would destroy the system," Chancellor Roy Lieualien said last week of the 20-percent cut.

Not to mention the far-reaching effects such a cut would have on the local economy.

"It would gut the University — to have to close professional schools, depart-

ments, access to thousands of students, and the layoff of tenured faculty," says Stoddard Malarkey, a University English professor.

"And if you had to lay off classified staff, it would surely compound problems in the local economy. It's a gloomy picture."

At present, no one can say exactly how many will be affected at this university by Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposed across-the-board cuts. But several local analysts are predicting that the consequences of a major cut will be grim for Eugene's economy.

One of those attempting to translate that impact into dollars and cents is Curt Simic, University vice president for public services. Although he emphasizes that none of his estimates are concrete at this point, Simic is using a figure of \$6 million to reflect the University cut.

Estimating that money spent by the University community "turns over" at least three times, Simic says the loss in revenue for Eugene would be \$18 million. The effect would be similar to the

layoff of 900 loggers earning \$20,000 a year, he says.

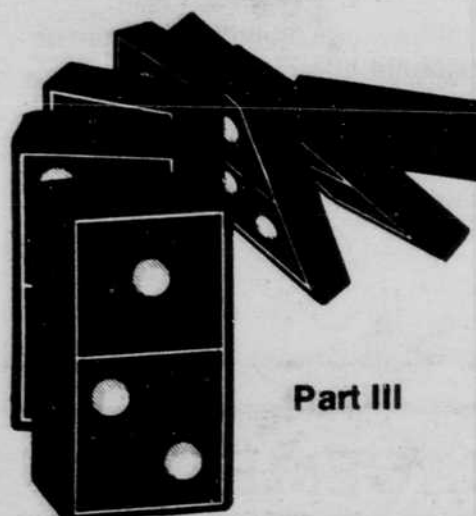
Don Mason of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce says the impact of a 20-percent cut would be far-reaching because the University community uses many goods and services in Eugene.

He says a similar cut by another major employer in the area — for example, if Weyerhaeuser were to lay off thousands of employees in one chunk — would not have the dramatic effect that the proposed University cut would.

This is because University students and employees are well-spread throughout the area, Mason says. Therefore the goods and services they consume touch all aspects of the community.

Margaret Hallock of the State Employment Division says a 20-percent cut would be a "painful, irreversible mistake." She says the short-term effects of increased unemployment and a loss of revenue in the area would be "nothing in comparison to the long-range effects" of losing skilled workers, researchers and educated members of the community.

The economics of cutbacks



Part III

Graphic by Max DeRungs

Neighborhood plan gets mixed reviews

By RICHARD BURR
Of the Emerald

The Eugene Planning Commission's version of the West University Refinement Plan satisfied University interest but stirred up disagreement within other sectors of the community.

The plan, which received commission approval Nov. 30, is designed "to improve the area physically for people to live, work, and conduct business in," says Jody Miller, a professional planner who worked on the plan.

The West University area covers about 200 acres, cordoned off by Franklin Boulevard and Broadway Street to the north, the University to the east, 18th Avenue to Patterson Street, and 19th Avenue to Willamette Street to the south, and an uneven boundary along Willamette, Pearl Street and 11th Avenue to the west.

The West University Neighborhood Center withdrew its support of the plan, calling the changes unacceptable, says WUNC member Harold Lannom, who helped draft the original plan.

"Quite a few changes" altered the intent of the original plan, Lannom says.

"Housing has lost tremendously because changes in wording have turned it into a commercial study," he says.

Lannom says the Planning

Commission's version does not allow for interphasing — transforming housing areas to residential-professional zones to commercial areas.

Lannom says one example of this failure is the area bordered by 13th and 18th avenues and High and Hilyard streets. The residential area is "pocketed off" by commercial areas, increasing the chances that the area may turn into a ghetto, he says.

The commission made too many concessions to "limited economic interests," such as medical clinic expansion, Lannom says. Mixed-use zones also were changed to commercial areas, he says.

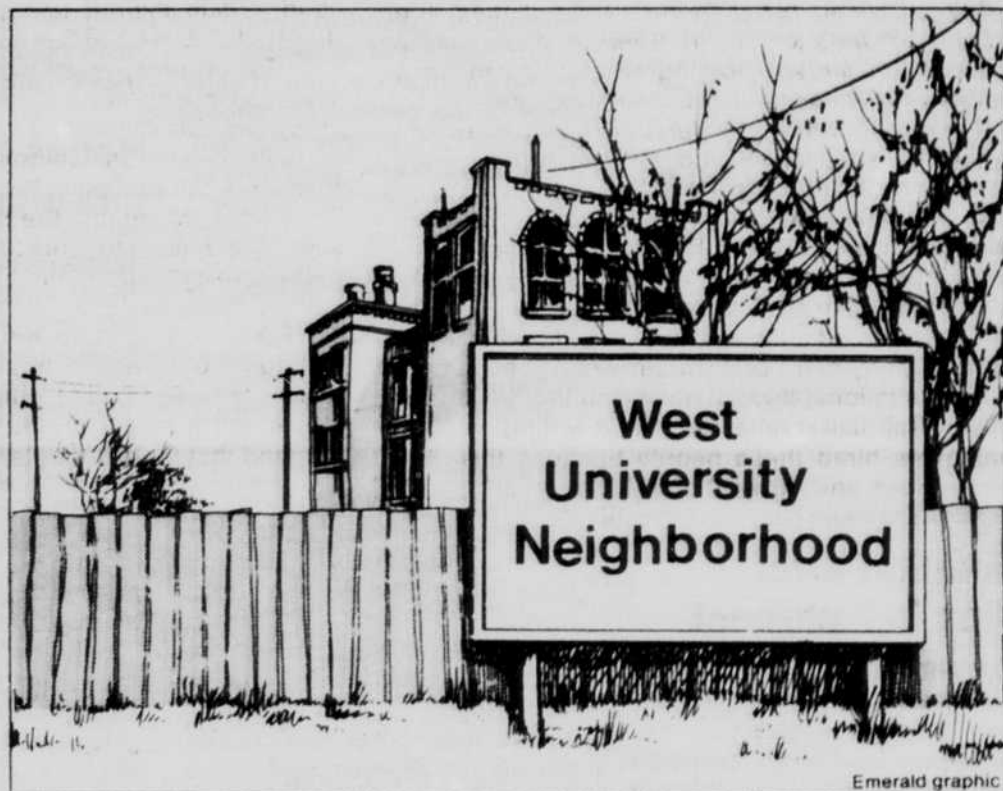
But Ed Mahn, the planning director at Sacred Heart General Hospital, says "it's a fair plan."

Mahn, also a Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce member, says the plan balances the need to protect existing residential areas with the need for some commercial expansion.

"I think the plan gives balance to the commercial, residential, and health care needs of the community — the entire city — and that's the role the commission plays," says Commissioner Robert Barkman.

Barkman says the area Lannom mentioned is a mixture of commercial and residential uses and is zoned correctly.

The plan does not affect the Univer-



Emerald graphic

sity adversely, Barkman and Lannom agree.

"We haven't done anything to affect the positions of the University," Barkman says. "In fact, the closer we moved toward the University, fewer modifications were made by the planning commission."

University concerns were to "maintain quality in the neighborhood," to preserve the opportunity for future reasonably priced housing in case of University expansion and to protect University interests in case property in the area was granted to the University, University Planner David Rowe says.

"We don't believe we'll be expanding

in the area," Rowe says. "We're not in the market."

"We're not a big monolithic organization that's not sensitive to the community."

Until the plan receives final approval from the Eugene City Council, the neighborhood cannot start projects such as curb cutting and low-level lighting, says Mary Kay Crumbaker, president of the West University Neighborhood.

The plan comes before the council Jan. 25. Lannom says the organization will attend a city council study session Jan. 13 to "get an idea what the thinking is."

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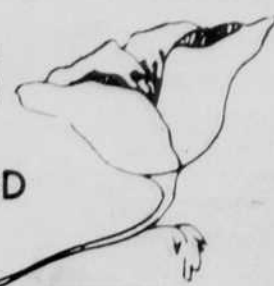


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