

emerald

As federal cuts lead to layoffs

University placement office faces cut

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

Two University Job Service employees — and the job service itself — are endangered by a recent cut in federal funds that helped pay the employees' salaries.

Supervisor Ken Masterson and interviewer Anne Svarverud, the University service's only full-time employees, are among more than 250 job placement employees the state employment division is laying-off as a result of a 12-percent reduction in the money the state receives from the federal government.

The University job service, a branch of the state employment division, is staffed by the two state employees and three University work study students. Unless the University or the state employment division comes up with an alternative soon, the loss of those two employees would shut down the placement office, located at 1511 Agate St., according to John Moore, manager of the state employment division's Eugene office.

"If we just coldly close the place down, they (Masterson and Svarverud) would be out of there by March 11" Moore says.

But Moore says there are "a lot of late developments" in the lay-off situation, and he says he is willing to bet the office will not be shut down. The University branch placed 1,345 people from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, and about 98 percent of those placed were students, students' spouses and faculty members' spouses, he says.

"I don't think the University can afford to have that office closed," Moore says, adding that "somehow or other there has to be an effort at the University for students to find jobs."

Ed Vignoul, financial aid director at the University, says his office is working with Moore's to find an alternative to shutting down the placement office.

"The University is concerned about maintaining options for its students so they can attend school, and we will do everything within our power so there is no reduction in service," he says.

One obstacle to keeping the office open is that work study students, because of a "lack of expertise," cannot entirely staff the office, Vignoul says. The supervisory positions require employees who know how to locate jobs, which is a profes-



University placement office supervisor Ken Masterson may be out of a job soon.

Photo by Duane Schrag

sion in itself, he says.

Masterson, the service's supervisor, agrees that the University shouldn't run a "hit and miss" operation. Employers need to be able to call up and talk with someone who works there as a full-time professional,

he says.

That means either the University or the state must pick up the tab for the full-time salary positions and Vignoul says "the money isn't just laying there to do that."

But he says both sides are

making an effort to keep the office open and serving students, although the general public may no longer be able to use it as they do now. Also, if the service is kept open it may be available only on a part-time basis, he says.

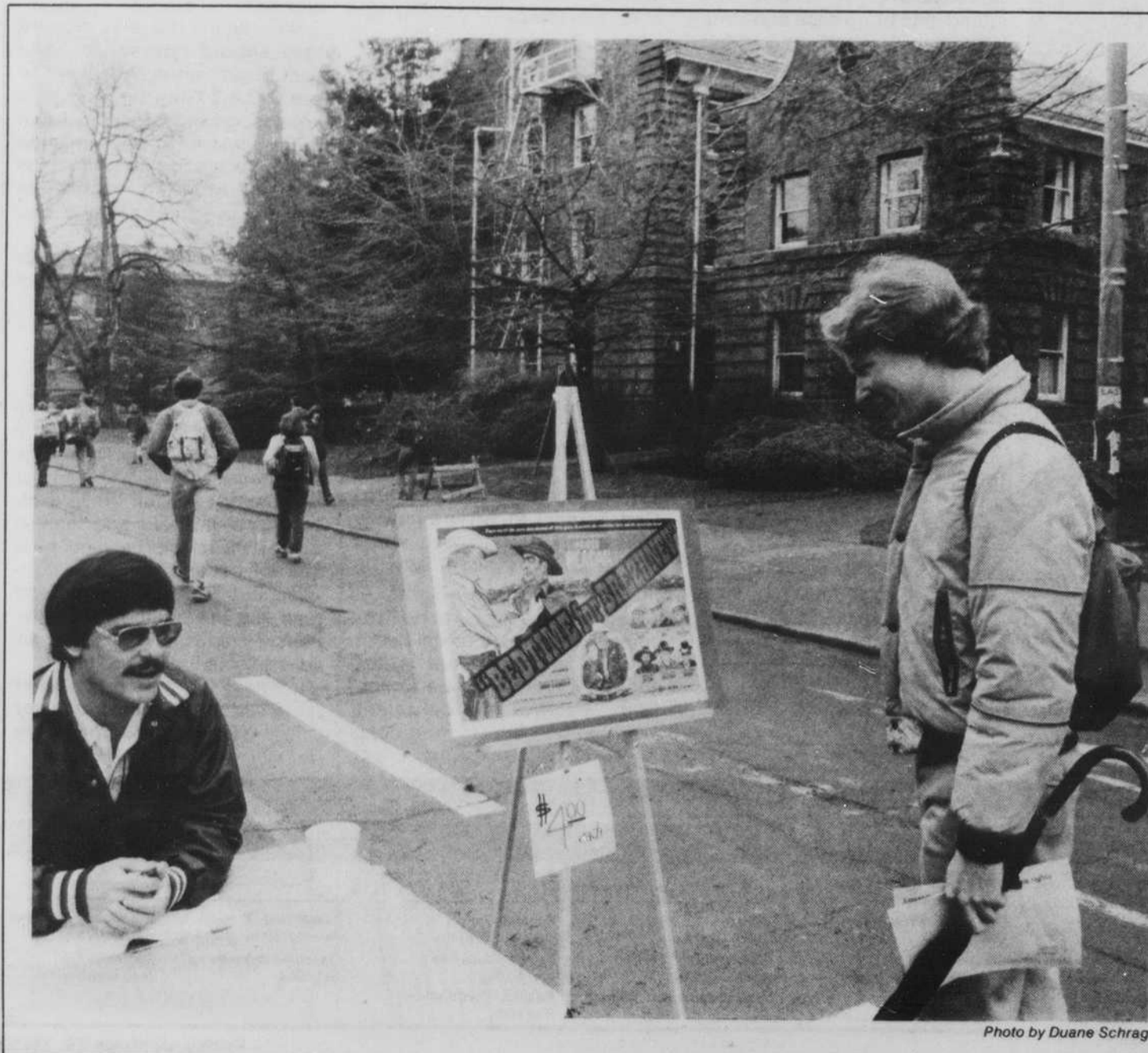


Photo by Duane Schrag

Ron shakes down Leonid

And now all you West Coast sports fans, get ready for the Eugene premiere of *Bedtime for Brezhnev!* Starring Ronald Reagan, Leonid Brezhnev, Nancy Davis and not far behind come an ornery cast of characters. Haig, Kissinger, Castro, Khadafy and "Introducing Jerry Brown as the Preacher" — all your favorite nuke-slingers are here!

Whoa dawgies, this ain't no picture show (it's only reality), but a poster for sale. If you race down to the intersection of University Street and 13th Avenue, you'll see Mike McCoy shivering at a card table. But note the box of rolled posters behind him and don't miss the display copy laminated on a mat displayed nearby.

The picture shows Reagan throttling Brezhnev by his black collar. Of course, both wear western outfits, a natural for Ron — but not for Leonid. Another picture shows Miz Nancy cowering by Ron's side. You almost expect to see House Leader Tip O'Neill as Reagan's white horse.

McCoy, a junior at the University, didn't dream up the posters. John Freund and David Porter, two Harvard business majors, did a few months ago. McCoy says they've been selling up a storm in Boston and New York. In fact, 40,000 posters, which go for \$4 each, have been sold already.

McCoy, acting through his newly born 'Irishmen Enterprises', is the second West Coast distributor of the posters. It's reported that seeing the poster made Reagan chuckle and even coaxed a smile out of the bear himself, Brezhnev.

McCoy's business Thursday was slow but enthusiastic. Ron Whisler, P.E. sports medicine major said with a confident laugh, "Put me down as the first customer."