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Doctor can't cure Observer

The Willamette Valley Observer, Eugene's "alternative news magazine" since 1975, has gone the way of The Washington Star and The Philadelphia Bulletin — belly up.

Ken Doctor, editor and publisher of the Observer, said Wednesday that the paper "got caught in the same squeeze" as other folding Eugene businesses. Falling revenues caused by poor advertising sales were the main reason for shutting down, Doctor said.

In the seven and a half years it has been in business, 331 issues of the Observer have been published. The last issue made it to the newsstands Wednesday.

No one has offered to buy the paper, Doctor said. "We're just going to liquidate and pay off our debts."

After the Observer shed its non-profit status in 1977 and began publishing weekly instead of biweekly, financial problems mounted. "By sheer will and stamina we kept it going," Doctor said.

But now his stamina has run out, he said.

"It's that combined with the



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

The only editor the Willamette Valley Observer has ever had, Ken Doctor is now a publisher without a paper.

frustration of putting out a smaller product. It's not the product we want," he said.

The Observer started as "a community effort" in 1974, with a core of about 15 workers, Doctor said. It incorporated as a non-profit company and published its first issue Jan. 5, 1975, relying on advertising and volunteer work to keep going.

In a "post mortem" published in the final edition, Doc-

tor wrote: "February, 1980 marked the beginning of the nightmare, and it's been the kind of bad dream you keep waking up from, trying to shake and then experience again and again, until you awaken, convinced that sleepless wakefulness is better the bad dream merry-go-round."

Doctor is a University graduate with a masters degree in journalism.

Recital features classical, Irish music

Two University music students will perform classical and Irish music in a degree recital July 26 in Beall Hall.

Mezzo-soprano Aylish E. Kerrigan and pianist Bruce Patterson will perform Handel's Arias, Wagner's "Wesendonck Lieder," Debussy's "Chansons de Bilitis," songs by Charles Ives and a selection of Irish songs arranged for her by Scot-

tish composer Andrew Peggie. The concert begins at 8 p.m.

A graduate student in vocal performance, Kerrigan has studied and performed in Europe and the United States. After graduating from the University with a music degree, she continued her studies in Stuttgart, London and San Francisco.

She has played the title role in the opera Carmen and received

awards from several opera competitions. Kerrigan has also appeared on nationwide television in Ireland and England.

Patterson, completing requirements for a bachelor's degree in piano performance, has performed in several solo recitals and chamber programs while at the University. He recently received the Ruth Lorraine Close scholarship in recognition of his accomplishments as an accompanist.

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Gallery offers exhibit space

University photographers have an opportunity to display their prints at the library's Instructional Media Center.

Photographers can exhibit up to 14 prints at the center's Bruinier Gallery. Displays may be exhibited for 30 days.

The gallery is named in memory of Terry Jon Bruinier, a University psychology student and photographer who died at the age of 22. Bruinier's photography includes studies of the people of Eastern Europe from a visit there in 1971.

For more information, contact Bob Barzee at the Instructional Media Center, 686-3091.

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Thursday, July 22, 1982