

# Art museum to close its doors for 60 days

By Harry Esteve  
Of the Emerald

The director of the University's art museum, Richard Paulin, becomes eligible for unemployment benefits Friday. So does his assistant, Norine Arens, and so do four other museum employees.

For the first time in its history, the art museum will shut down during August and September as part of a campus-wide effort to balance the University's slim budget.

As a result, six museum workers and two employees at Visual Arts Resources, an office connected with the museum, will be out of work for two months.

Besides Paulin and Arens, the museum custodian, the museum registrar, the registrar's assistant and the museum receptionist will lose their jobs for two months. The supervisor at Visual Arts Resources and his secretary also will be laid off for the closure.

In the past the museum has closed to the public in the middle of August and reopened in October but the staff has stayed to continue museum operations and make improvements. This year only three maintenance workers will stay to install a special elevator for the handicapped, which is being paid for with private contributions, not state funds, Arens stresses.

The two month lay-off "is not a vacation," says Arens who has worked at the museum for 10 years and at the University for a total of 15 years.

"When we come back, we're going to have two months of work to catch up on."

When the museum employees are reinstated in their jobs in October they will be hired only for the 10-month academic year, Arens says. So far, all the employees plan on returning.

University Pres. Paul Olum, in consultation with his vice presidents, decided to make museum personnel jobs 10-month posts last winter when the University was coping with a state mandated budget cutback and revenue shortfalls.

Ray Hawk, vice president for administration and finance, calls the decision a "compromise alternative" that will "still maintain the vital functions of the museum" and save the University money. University officials estimate the closure will save about \$20,000 per year.

Well over 50 percent of the museum funding comes



Photo by Mark Pynes

University art professor, LaVerne Krause's exhibit will be the last shown at the University Art Museum. The museum will close for two months due to financial cutbacks.

from private donations and the sale or rental of art works, Arens says. Many museum patrons expressed disappointment and even outrage over the closure, but the sentiments were aimed at the University administration and not the museum.

"So far people have been very sympathetic, very understanding," Arens says, adding that no one has withheld any donations.

"But what the cuts will mean as far as long-term

repercussions, I really couldn't say."

However, since the museum's Rainbow Gift shop and the Showcase Gallery will also be closed, summer revenues from the sale of gifts and artwork and from rental paintings will be lost.

"We will lose quite a bit of money on that," Arens says.

The museum will reopen Oct. 1 from noon until 5 p.m. daily except Mondays, Tuesdays and holidays.

## 150-mile city bike plan growing 11-miles a year

By Frank Shaw  
Of the Emerald

There are those that consider Davis, Calif., to be the bicycle capital of the United States. But Charles Nordgaard, one of Eugene's two bicycle coordinators, says that Eugene is probably a U.S. leader in bike facilities.

In 1975 Eugene brought in some consultants from California to help design a bike plan for the city. The plan called for 150 miles of bike paths running through Eugene. There are currently about 75 miles completed, Nordgaard said.

The 75 miles of completed paths consist of 18 miles of off-road paths, 36 miles of dotted bike lanes along streets, and 21 miles of signed street routes.

The number of miles of paths has been growing at about 11 miles a year, estimates Diane Bishop, Eugene's

other bicycle coordinator. She expects growth to continue at this rate, which she calls slow.

"It's not because of the economy," Bishop says. "But more because we're waiting for streets to be widened."

The city installs dotted lines and signs every time it repaves or widens a street designated for a bike path under the plan. The bicycle committee does not have to pay for either lines or signs. They are budgeted into traffic department costs.

The committee receives approximately \$110,000 a year, most of which is spent on off-street paths. Bishop estimates that a mile of off-street path costs \$45,000. Both Bishop and Nordgaard agree the maintenance of the bike paths suffer from the city's budget crunch.

"Last summer we had a person with a bike cart and tools who rode along



Photo by Mark Pynes

About 2,000 to 3,000 people travel some Eugene bicycle paths on nice days.

the paths and did some maintenance," Nordgaard says. "But this summer we have to depend on commuters to let us know where the problems are."

While the city might not have money for maintenance, they are building a fourth pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Willamette River. Nordgaard explains that the money for the bridge was budgeted over two years ago. If the

committee didn't spend it this year, they wouldn't get another chance, he says.

Ten percent of Eugene commuters ride bicycles to work, Nordgaard says.

"The attitude of bicyclists in Eugene is really positive," he says. "They're out there, not polluting, getting exercise and having fun."

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