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No answers for housing costs

NEW YORK (AP) - The "affordability gap" in housing continues to generate a windstorm of oratory, controversy, legislation and lamentation, but with little evidence yet that the problem will be blown away.

Nobody disputes there is a gap. For four decades the median-income household could afford the median-price home, but today there exists a \$16,250 disparity. The dispute is over the closing of it.

It is, says Leonard Shane, chairman of the U.S. League of Savings Associations, "troubling news for homebuyers, home sellers and the nation." It has "serious, long-range consequences that cannot be

But the associations have also just released a study, "Homeownership Affordability in the 1980s," that suggests some of the problem might be corrected without a call to federal action.

To begin with, homebuyer aspirations seem to be part of the problem.

Just 20 years ago the average size of the new, single-family house was 1,460 square feet. By 1979 it had risen to 1,760 feet, and even today it remains close to 1,700 feet.

Match those figures against the typical subdivision dwelling of the 1950s and early 1960s, when square footage averaged about 1,100 square feet and buyers were content with one bath rather than 2.

And, finally, consider that average family size is

According to the savings associations study, each 100 square feet of extra space added to the size of a home and associated land in 1983 adds \$5,000 to the average price.

The study also found that thousands of dollars per unit could be saved by such things as simple changes in local subdivision development standards and zoning codes to permit the use of new technologies and materials.

In a demonstration project at Lincoln, Neb., for example, townhouses of 844 and 880 square feet were produced for \$39,950 to \$46,000 because the city reduced its usual standards and procedures.

Among the changes was a modification of zoning ordinances to permit 52 units on a site that otherwise would have been limited to 32, sidewalks on one side of the street only, and unfinished rather than finish-

The study also found that the use of factory built homes, often the target of zoning restrictions, offers big savings.

Detailing the findings, they reported that construction costs for 1,500-square-foot factory-built units were 34 percent lower than comparable units built on site, a saving of \$14,670, or about 90 percent of the gap.

The implementation of such savings might be more difficult than it appears, considering among other things that buyers have come to expect a lot of house for their money.

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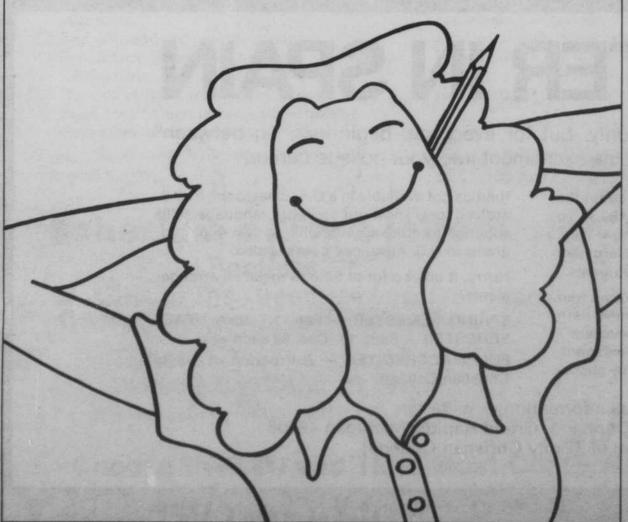
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The University of Oregon Continuation Center invites you to look into the new Microcomputer labs opening this fall.

Gilbert Hall Microcomputer Lab is equipped with IBM microcomputers, and provides computer applications instruction for community professionals and students in such fields as Business Management, Journalism, and Law.

Condon School Microcomputer Lab has Apple 11e Microcomputers and provides educators, students and community residents with a personal computing foundation. Condon School Lab also has graphics peripherals for artists and others interested in computer graphics.

* There are no prerequisites for microcomputer labs *

SELECTED BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION **ACADEMIC COURSES**

Spreadsheet Analysis, ACTG 510, 01. An introduction to electronic spreadsheets as they are used in business management. Several popular programs are covered including Visicalc. Perfect Calc; and hands-on instruction on Lotus 1-2-3 (fall quarter). Four (4) five week sessions are offered fall quarter. Instructor, Lichty, T.

-7195 Lecture session I. Sept 26 - Oct 28 Fri 10:00 - 11:20;

7197 Lecture session II, Sept 26 - Oct 28 Fri 1:00 - 2:20

-7196 Lecture session III. Oct 31 - Dec 17 Fri 10:00 - 11:20 7298 Lecture session IV, Oct 31 - Dec 17 Fri 1:00 - 2:20

-Labs (day hours Mon - Thurs, see department for times)

Business Applications Microcomputers, DSC 510, 03. Survey of hardware and software for business applications. Communications, word processing, spreadsheets, statistics, data base management. (computer: IBM PC; software: Perfect, Lotus, Statpro). Three sessions. Instructor, Wilkins, D.

7216 Lecture session I, Sept. 30 - Dec 17 Fri 8:30 - 9:50;

-7217 Lecture session II. Sept 30 - Dec 17 Fri 11:30 - 12:50; -7218 Lecture session III. Sept 30 - Dec 17 Fri 2:30 - 3:50:

Labs (day hours Mon-Thurs, see department for times)

7215 Word Processing & Business Communication, BE 199, 03. Introduction to word processing as it relates to business communication. Examines electronic mail, written reports and manuscripts. (Perfect Software, IBM PC) Tues. and Thurs. 4:30 -5:50. Instructor, Fagan, S.

> For information or registration, call the Continuation Center. 686-4231

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