

Hospital's comprehensive plan causes both optimism, concern

By Lisa Loving
Of the Emerald

Sacred Heart Hospital's preliminary plans for West University construction were disclosed at a private meeting last week. Members of the campus community are guardedly optimistic about the plans.

Details of the design and construction of new laboratory and parking structures were presented to an ad hoc committee composed of local business owners, community residents, the Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, a University planner and the ASUO president-elect.

At the center of discussion is a large-scale development of sections of the University neighborhood into an expanded medical complex. The preliminary plans presented at the meeting came from a joint study of the neighborhood by the hospital and Bobrow-Thomas Associates, a Los Angeles-based architecture firm.

The overall concept of the development, says Sacred Heart spokesman Alan Yordy, is to center the most intensive construction on 12th Avenue. He described this as the heart of the proposed expansion, with 11th and 13th Avenue serving as buffer zones around a medically-oriented core of facilities.

While long-range plans for expansion are uncertain, Yordy said, the first phases of development — the laboratory and parking structures — are progressing through the formulative stages.

Two types of proposal are being debated for the hospital's 11th Avenue lot, Yordy says. One is a special facility for elderly citizens, the other a laboratory. He said development of this site is a primary priority for the hospital.

The proposed laboratory building would combine a currently operating facility at Sacred Heart with that of Pathology Consultants of Oakway Mall, in an effort to eliminate a perceived service duplication, thereby reducing operating costs, Yordy said.

The office would be built on 11th Avenue between Alder and Hilyard streets. This site previously housed the Mayflower Theater, demolished by the hospital the day before appeals were to be heard on its preservation as a historical landmark.

However, Yordy said, "We will be doing considerably more study on what kind of facility will go in there." He said hospital officials would

like to begin construction on the site before the end of this year.

Along the hospital's 13th Avenue property, plans for a multi-level parking garage are being considered.

Wilmot Gilland, University architecture school dean, expressed reservations about the proposals. "I guess my real concern is that whole stretch that goes between Alder and Patterson creates such a gap in the continuity of the buildings on 13th that it's a negative impact," he said. "I'd like to see more shops."

This site, between Patterson and Hilyard streets, was occupied until early this year by an office and retail store complex called The Courtyard. Yordy said another business still operating at the spot, Poppi's Restaurant, will be demolished after its lease expires in March 1987. He added that construction on the site is projected to begin one year from now.

ASUO President-elect Steve Nelson also was critical of the plans. A proposed traffic light in front of the main hospital entrance on Hilyard Street would create regular traffic tangles, Nelson said.

Nelson pointed out that hospital planners do not guarantee replacement of demolished shops on 13th Avenue with new retail businesses. "I know why now they didn't put forward these proposals several months ago, before they tore the buildings down," he said.

While many members of the community panel lauded the hospital's attempts to generate public involvement in the project, they were critical of Sacred Heart's late start at asking for that input.

"People have been increasingly concerned about the seeming unpredictability of the hospital's actions in planning," Gilland said.

"It seems that there is an absolute necessity for dialogue," Gilland said. "I just think the hospital should have done it years ago."

Vicky Leppmann, secretary of the University Small Business Association, said, "It seemed to me that the hospital is very aware of the impact it has on the community, and they will do their best to soften the impact."

She added, "The hospital is one of the largest employers in the county. Of course, that means a lot of people coming into the area, and that can't be anything but good for the local businesses."

Yordy said Sacred Heart planners will have a more tangible plan in four to six weeks.

Violence

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incidents, locate the individual perpetrators, arrest them where appropriate and disqualify them from attendance at this University.

"We will not tolerate this kind of harassment. If we have to fight for our safety, we will," she said.

Baker said the University will investigate the incidents and report those involved to authorities. She said she didn't know what the penalties would be.

"We don't like this behavior at all," she said. Gays and lesbians "have all the civil protections that all students have."

When gays and lesbians returned from Johnson Hall,

some encountered a group of people that engaged them in a heated debate. Some pushing occurred, but the group broke up when gays and lesbians left a few minutes later.

At the rally, Judy Finch, co-director of GALA, said gays and lesbians have a reason to celebrate despite the incidents.

They have a right to celebrate their individuality and need to unite with other oppressed groups to fight discrimination, she said.

Joyce Engels, the mother of a gay man and co-founder of the Eugene/Springfield chapter of

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'Lesser God' opens

University Theatre's second season will open with Mark Medoff's award-winning play "Children of a Lesser God" Thursday in the Arena Theatre.

Winner of the Tony Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award and Drama Desk Award as the best play of the 1980 season, "Children of a Lesser God" details the romance and marriage of a sensitive but spirited deaf girl and the devoted young teacher whom she meets at a school for the deaf.

Additional performances are scheduled for Friday, Saturday, May 22-24 and 29-31. Curtain time for all performances is 8 p.m. The Thursday, Saturday, May 22 and 29 performances will be interpreted in sign language for the hearing impaired. Tickets are \$2.50 for general admission. Call 686-4191 for ticket information.

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