



Photo by Jeff Paslay

John Elvert, director of the Lane Education Service District Planetarium, is easing the facility into the world of public programming.

Planetarium offers first public shows

□ The educational facility has put together a full schedule of public performances

By Tim Neff
Emerald Associate Editor

The Lane Education Service District Planetarium has been about as visible as the Big Dipper at high noon since it was built in 1979.

Until last November, the facility, which is located by Autzen Stadium, was used exclusively as a tool to teach Lane County students about celestial wonders. Meanwhile, planetariums like OMSI were packing in stargazers and space cadets

with a mix of hard rock laser shows and educational programs.

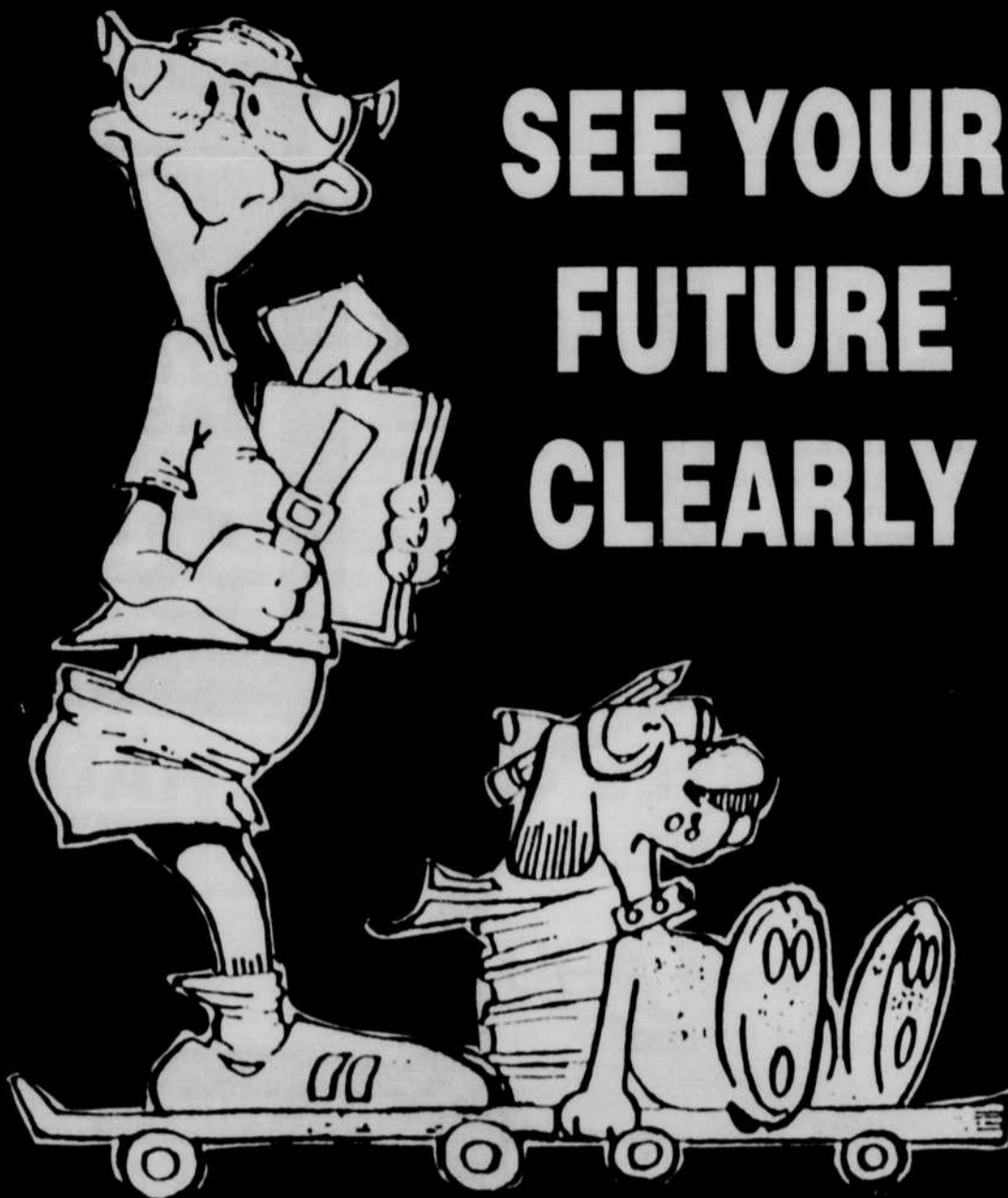
However, with a change in an Oregon statute last November, the planetarium is beginning to offer a full slate of programs aimed directly at the public. The amended statute lets the facility raise public money to run public shows.

Planetarium director John Elvert said the statute change will allow the facility to expand its role in the community.

"Once the word gets around," Elvert said, "the community will see us as a real resource. Right now it's an under-used resource."

The planetarium's stellar ef-

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