

Graduate test preparation center opens in Eugene

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

The country's oldest and largest graduate testing preparation center now has a branch in Eugene.

Kaplan Educational Center got its Eugene start in January 1991, but it wasn't until this summer that courses for all kinds of graduate tests were offered.

Joe Russin, community director for the Eugene branch, said there was a strong demand for a center near the University, and some students were driving to Portland's Kaplan Center.

The most popular courses include study for the Law School Acceptance Test, the Medical College Admissions Test, the Graduate Record Exam, the Graduate Management Admissions Test and the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

Because those tests are offered about four times a year, Russin said, Kaplan is constantly preparing for a new round of courses.

Each one lasts about 10 weeks and includes one four-hour course a week, as well as independent study with Kaplan's copyrighted tapes and books to reinforce what is learned in class. Some courses

are also offered in which the study time is compacted into fewer weeks.

Russin, one of two Eugene instructors, said class size is limited to about 10 to 20 people, so individual interaction with the instructor is assured.

"What Kaplan believes in is beating the test — attacking it and beating it," Russin said.

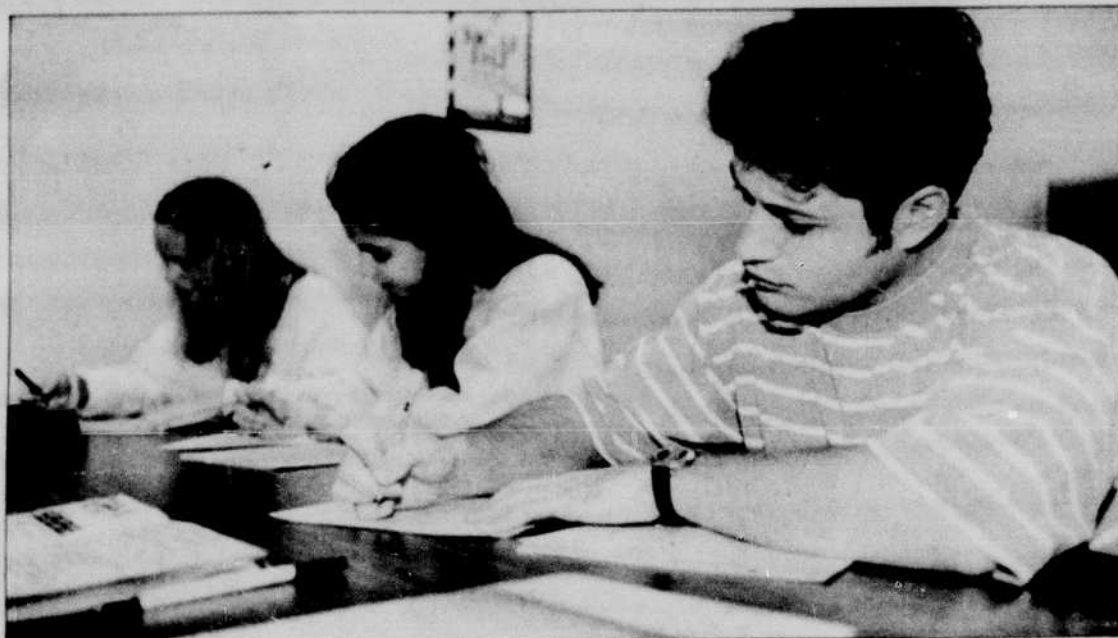
The Kaplan Centers approach this philosophy by focusing on different types of study for different tests. Some tests require analytical thought, others involve strategy and others require mainly factual knowledge.

Part of mastering these tests is in overcoming "test anxiety," Russin said, so at least two practice tests are given.

"We want to put them in a comfortable psychological position to take the test," Russin said. "We also show people how to manage their time on a test because a lot of it is pacing, timing, knowing how much time to spend on each thing."

Costs for the courses vary considerably, Russin said. Financial aid is available, "so there's a lot of flexibility," he said. "It depends on your financial situation."

Although test preparation books alone may be cheaper,



University seniors Analea Patterson (left) and Kalei Lopez and Oregon State University graduate Benny Hall take a practice LSAT test at the new Kaplan Educational Center.

Russin said, the results are usually less dramatic.

"People often get discouraged because there's no human interaction," he said. "Those books may be good for a very highly-motivated person, but most people are busy and would find reasons not to do the work."

Russin said the proof of Kap-

lan's success can be found in the fact that, nationally, one of every two students in medical school and one of every three students in law school have taken a Kaplan course.

Rob Pelley, a University undergraduate who is applying to law school, took the LSAT course this summer. Pelley said his score on the actual test im-

proved by 16 points over the score on his first practice test.

Pelley said he doesn't believe he would have gotten such a good score if he had simply relied on his own study.

"Not only do you have access to books, but the tapes allow you to go at your own speed, so you can identify your strengths and weaknesses," Pelley said.

Legislators leave University administrators in limbo

By Demian McLean
Emerald Reporter

In killing a proposal for a special session on Measure 5 last week, Republican legislators may have sent University administrators a tacit signal to look elsewhere for jobs in 1993.

Administrators say their future has been in limbo since July, when 218 University employees received notices explaining their contracts may not be renewed in 1993. The proposed job cuts are part of a projected 20-percent budget reduction at the University over the next three years.

Exactly how many administration jobs — defined as non-teaching faculty positions — will be cut hinges on the Legislature's plan to replace the missing funds, said Dan Williams, vice president of administration. Nearly all 218 jobs could be lost, he said, or none of them could be cut, depending on how the Legislature acts.

But perhaps more important than how the Legislature acts is when it acts. By canceling the special session, the Legislature may have postponed a budget decision

past the point where it makes any difference to University administrators.

Marc Gibson, the Senate president chief of staff, predicted it would take legislators until spring to agree on a budget solution.

"I think the best-case scenario is budget gridlock until April or May," he said. "The implications for higher education are fairly grim."

Beth Swank, a counselor in Career Planning and Placement who received a notice of possible termination, said she can't wait until spring to look for a new job.

"I've given myself the deadline of the first of the year," she said. "I don't want to be left in June without anything."

Roger Morris, associate director of student services, said the attitude in his office is split.

"People are either committed to longevity, to staying here, or they're not waiting to start the job hunt," he said.

Morris said he believes most administrative faculty with termination notices will wait until late winter for

the Legislature to make a decision.

"Come March or April," he said, "people will be dropping away from the University like flies."

University librarian George Shipman said he is banking on his record to keep his University position.

"I have to proceed on an article of faith," he said. "I've got 12-plus years here."

State Rep. Carl Hosticka, D-Eugene, said any delay to a budget solution will be the result of partisan politics, not lack of solutions.

"There's plenty of proposals around," he said. "You don't have to reinvent the wheel."

"The question is: Do the people in control — Rep. Campbell and others — want to do it?" Hosticka said. "Do we have the will power to get this done?"

Williams said the University will watch the budget proceedings as late as January before announcing any cuts.

"Much beyond that," he said, "we may just go forward and make choices, out of consideration for the people involved."

EQUUS
by Peter Shaffer
University Theatre
November 19, 20, 21 • 8pm
University Theatre Box Office 346-4191

**ALL YOU CAN EAT
SPAGHETTI WITH BREAD**
(with coupon)

Guido's **\$2.95**
13th & Alder on campus
one coupon per customer • expires 12/10/92

1/2 OFF
Cover Charge Coupon
LOLLIPOPS
(Jiggles Junior)
Totally Nude Dancers
2175 West 11th
Next door to Jiggles
Open at 5:00 p.m. daily
1 per person. 18 years and older to get in. Expires 12-31-92

JOHN HENRY'S
BEER • MUSIC • ARTS

136 E. 11th • (near Willamette)
342-3358
Must be 21 or Over

Wednesday Nov. 18 \$3
A unique blend of alternative and acoustic rock
Dose
Terry Lee Hale (from Seattle)
Funnelhead (formerly Prairie School)

Thursday Nov. 19 \$4
All hail the new GODS with:
Osgood Slaughter (from San Francisco)
Motorgoat (featuring former members of Harm Farm)
Village Idiot (from Portland)

Friday Nov. 20 \$6
!!!! Dub Squad !!!!

Music Starts at 10pm
Open 4pm-2:30am
Mon-Sat