

Planners to address city growth

■ **PLANNING:** Faced with a growing population, city officials have difficult choices

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

They are the signs of the times: traffic jams on the Ferry St. Bridge, fewer spots for parks and open spaces and low-income housing shortages.

Eugene is growing, and city officials are trying to find ways to handle the expected increase of 80,000 people in the next 15 years, said Jim Croteau, principle planner for Eugene's Planning and Development Department.

The final results of citywide surveys and forums conducted as part of the Growth Management Study will be presented Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Eugene Conference Center. The planning commission will use the results to draft policy recommendations that will be presented to the City Council in March or April.

"We are going to try to present the numbers in a way everyone



it is not a public forum, he said.

The Growth Management Study, which began in 1995, gathered public input through mail-in surveys, community forums and random sample surveys.

"All of this information will be used when the City Council starts making its policy decisions," Croteau said. "It gives city officials an idea of how the community sees the city's future and what path they want growth to follow."

According to a report from the Eugene Planning and Development Department, Eugene's current population is 118,000 and is expected to increase to 200,000 by the year 2015.

can understand," Croteau said. "The numbers can be confusing and we want to simplify it."

The meeting is open to the public however

Eight areas have been chosen as the focus for change. These include topics such as land use, transportation, housing and public safety.

One of the primary questions being discussed is whether the Urban Growth Boundary should be kept the way it is or expanded.

The state requires cities to keep a 20-year supply of land available for the population. In order to do this, the city can either expand the boundary or reuse the land.

Transportation issues focus primarily on how to spend the limited resources allocated to transportation. The choice centers on spending money on alternative modes of transportation or on improving current transportation.

As the population increases, affordable housing becomes more of an issue. Options, which include increasing land available to the city and publicly subsidizing housing projects, have been presented to deal with housing problems.

Israel Week opens with ceremony

■ **ISRAEL:** The celebration gives students the chance to understand Israeli society

By Laura Baker
Student Activities Reporter

Israel Week, sponsored by the Jewish Student Union, started its activities with a strong showing at its opening ceremony, which featured a multimedia introduction to Israel.

"The opening was excellent," said JSU Director Micah Citrin. "About 65 people showed up. It was a positive start."

Citrin said he hopes the week will continue to be successful.

"We want to encourage students to take advantage of the programs [being offered this week] and ask questions they may have about Israel," Citrin said.

More speakers and events will round out the week's activities. At noon today, Mike Nitzan, regional director for the California-based Western Youth Hechalutz, will speak at a luncheon at the Hil-el House.

The Western Youth Hechalutz is a division of the Jewish Agency, which aids in educating youth about opportunities in Israel.

Nitzan will speak on opportunities for college students to study in Israel and to work on a Kibbutz. A Kibbutz is a communal farm in Israel that was first founded in late 18th century. These farms "combined the philosophy of socialism, settling the land and helping to create a Jewish state," Citrin said.

Tonight at 7 p.m. in Willamette 110, Nitzan will speak more on the Kibbutz movement — how it has changed and how it has affected Israeli society. Although Citrin says the Kibbutz movement is becoming smaller, he feels it is "important to understand-

ISRAEL WEEK

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Mike Nitzan will speak on the Kibbutz movement at 7 p.m. in Willamette 110.

■ **THURSDAY:** An open discussion on Middle East Peace processes will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center.

■ **THURSDAY NIGHT:** Dinner will be at Caspian Restaurant at 7 p.m.

ing Israeli society because of its earlier influence in sustaining Israeli society through agriculture and making people more self-supporting."

Both the luncheon and presentation are open to anyone interested in attending. However, space is limited to about 30 people for the luncheon.

"I hope these activities will raise the consciousness of Israel outside of what people see on the news," Citrin said.

Events continue Thursday with University Honors College professor David Frank's open discussion on the Middle East peace process at 4:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For the past couple of years, Frank has taught a class on the rhetoric of Palestinian and Israeli conflict. The discussion is open to everyone.

Thursday night there is a dinner at Caspian Restaurant at 7 p.m. A special speaker, whose identity is undisclosed, will discuss "his experiences in the Israel army," Citrin said.

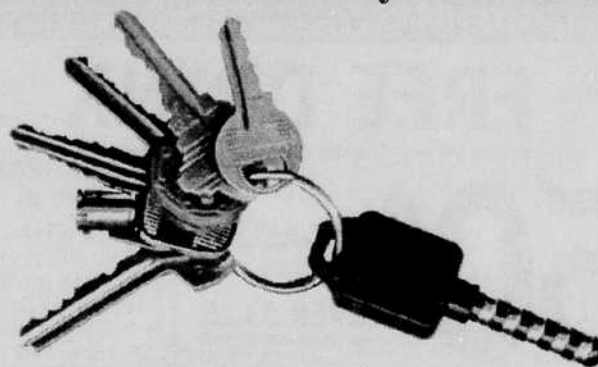
"I want people to be able to appreciate Israel as a society for its strengths and weaknesses," said Citrin. "Maybe people will recognize the complexities of Israel by learning more about it."

This is a chance for people to explore something they haven't had a chance to explore," he said.

For more information, contact the JSU at 346-4366.

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Men and Women's Winter Rush Forum

Starts Wednesday
Feb. 5

Women: Meet in 150 Columbia @ 6 p.m.
Men: Meet in the Bean (west) Conference
room @ 5:30 p.m.

call 346-1153 for more info...

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