

# Planning the future of the campus

By ART BUSHNELL  
Of the Emerald

University planner Larry Bissett presented capital construction proposals for the 1973-75 biennium to the Campus Planning Committee two weeks ago.

Those proposals have now been turned over to the State Board of Higher Education office and will probably be discussed for the first time by the board next February.

Between now and the next biennium, these projects—which have a combined estimated cost of \$6,451,000—will have been discussed many times by the State Board and its building committee. Those projects which are approved by the Board will be forwarded to the next session of the Oregon Legislature for final approval and funding.

Bissett describes the overall proposal of the University as "substantially different from our previous requests."

He says "it represents a very serious effort on our part to limit our requests to only those items which are most urgently needed. The projects listed are intended to eliminate or reduce clearly demonstrable current deficiencies and are not based on projected needs or any new programs."

He also says the proposals "reflect the basic goals of the Alexander study (a study of the cam-

Education space—each of which is estimated at \$1 million.

In recent years, each of these departments had requested multi-million dollar complexes. But this year, in accord with the Alexander philosophy of 'utilize all available space to the maximum,' the proposals have been altered, the major construction projects have been forgotten and available buildings on campus are earmarked as 'new' facilities.

This philosophy has evidently been followed down to the smallest request of each department, because out of the \$6 million-plus for construction, there is only one request for a new space to be built.

And that is a request for a "low cost" facility to house a portion of the speech department, thus freeing another portion of the department of the rehabilitation that is characteristic of the proposals.

Bissett points out that with the completion of currently funded projects and the conversion of Straub, some 100,000 square feet will be released and thus available for some other assignment.

Adhering to the Alexander philosophies means making the most of this space.

"We are trying to find a good overall solution for the many, many people that need more space," explains Bissett.

To find the overall solution for everyone requires a series of complex moves. But in proposing the series of moves (pictured on this page) the University has again adhered to the Alexander philosophy of 'make the most of what you have.'

Because of these proposals—and others included in the Alexander-directed package—the



Larry Bissett

face of the campus will probably not change markedly during the next few years.

Other than projects (such as the Erb Memorial Union addition and the University's Administrative Services building) which have already been approved, the campus changes of the future will be internal; remodeling buildings to suit the needs of their users, but not constructing new facilities.

If there are many new structures, they will be like the one proposed by the department of speech—small, low cost and tied into the rehabilitation of other areas.

The changes that come to the University campus in the future will thus not be in the form of large, expensive, high-rise structures.

If changes are made, they will be through the small buildings and through moves made at enhancing the present campus environment.

These kinds of alterations will begin with the 1973 proposals. Besides the necessary buildings and rehabilitations, the University has also proposed street improvements (which close the center of campus to through-traffic and provide only loops into and out of the area), bicycle facilities, improvement along the Millrace (including a new canoe shack and projects to maintain the flow of the Millrace) and the planting of grass in a 15-acre field northwest of the University to provide a place for jogging, picnics and athletic competition.

Quite clearly, the day of the multi-million dollar construction project is gone.

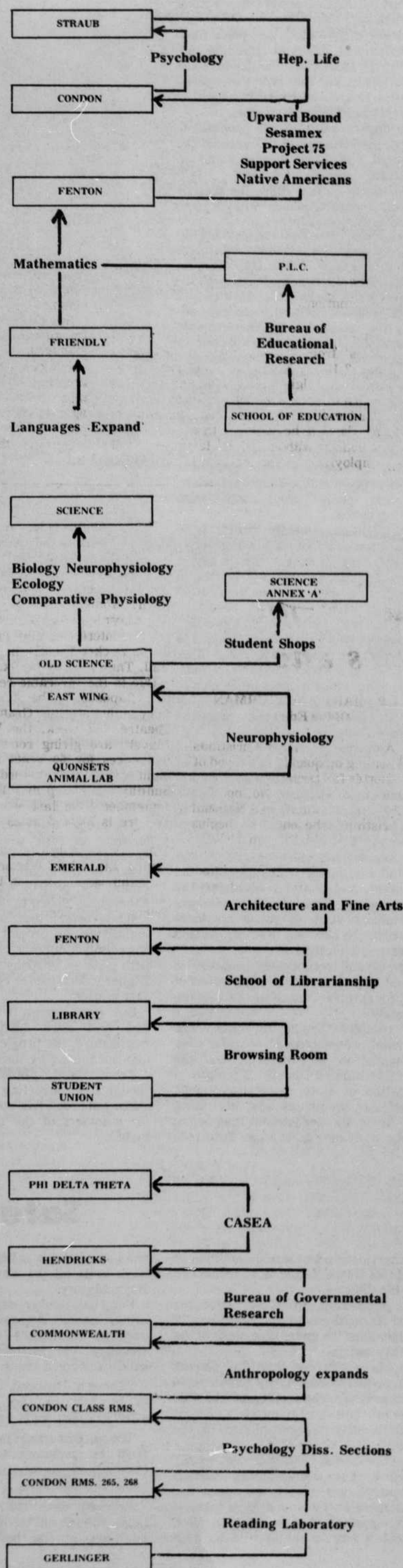
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## Proposed building changes 1973-75



## Analysis

pus' long-range building needs made by Berkeley, Calif. planner Christopher Alexander): instead of large building complexes we are now proposing a number of small building improvements, additions, etc., in order to get the best possible use of our existing facilities by 'repairing' the whole campus wherever deficiencies occur."

Both of these factors, as described by the University planner, are indeed very important in examining the list of proposed building projects.

The requests made by the University appear to be the bare essentials—requests that have not been met before for space that was needed previously.

This is especially reflected in the proposals for "omnibus rehabilitation." These include many projects which physical plant director Harold Babcock refers to as "deferred maintenance: things that have been put off until they can't be put off anymore and need repair now."

The requests for space are similar to the proposals for repair—they are requests that have been repeated over the years, but put off until they can't be put off anymore.

The departments of speech, psychology and mathematics, the schools of music and librarianship and the College of Education have each been requesting space for several years. The space they want is not for the expansion of programs or the creation of new ones but rather it is necessary to continue with their present projects.

As Bissett says, the University is requesting only projects which "reduce clearly demonstrable current deficiencies."

The second portion of Bissett's statement—getting the best possible use of the campus' buildings by repairing the deficiencies is reflected in several of the specific proposals: both in remodeling, such as the conversion of Straub Hall into facilities for the psychology department and in rehabilitation (the "deferred maintenance" program).

Markedly absent from the list of proposals are the major, multi-million dollar construction projects which have been proposed many times at the University in recent years.

The two most expensive projects, as far as the estimates are concerned, are the conversion of Straub for psychology and the purchase of fraternities or sororities for additional College of