

'Woodstock' affair put off

"We come to you because the University doesn't have any official say about it as long as it stays in the street . . . the property belongs to the city," said Mark Swain during yesterday's committee-of-the-whole meeting at the Eugene Hotel.

Mark Swain and David Merwin appeared before the committee to obtain permission to use 13th Avenue for the "WoodStock Northwest" festival during the two week closure.

Fred Mohr, council members from Ward 1, expressed concern about the aftermath of such an event, and gave as his reason the problems related to the Survival Faire. "There was great difficulty in finding those responsible for putting up the Survival Faire," he stated.

Mohr said he personally had been forced to spend "several hours" dismantling the constructions left up at the conclusion of the event.

Merwin said that those presenting the festival would "take responsibilities for trash collections, fire lanes and the noise level."

Request to deny request

"As for rock music, there would be strolling musicians but they would be playing unamplified instruments," Merwin said.

After Merwin had concluded, Steve Worts, a second-year law student at the University, addressed the meeting.

"I request that you deny this request," Worts said. "Finals are coming up and we have already been disrupted enough this term."

The matter will be discussed further at the Monday (May 25) council meeting.

David Smith and Bob Schmidt, both University students and associated with Project Escape, asked the major and the council to give a "blanket endorsement" to the Project Escape sponsored "Invite-a-Student-for-Dinner" campaign.

"For our understanding then, for student understanding, and for the benefit of our common greater community, invite a university student to join you and your family for dinner this next week. Let him hear what you, as an individual member of the community, think, let him discover

er how you feel about the issues (regardless of the positions you take). Then listen to what he has to say. Here is the chance for real community dialogue and interaction in a constructive sense."

The council committee gave the proposal its unanimous endorsement.

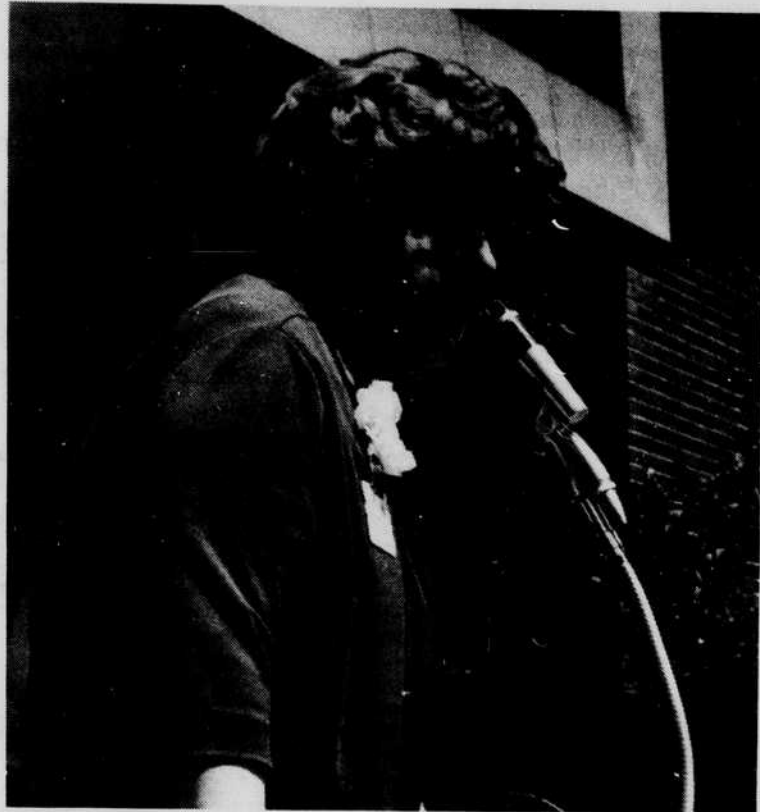


Photo by Frits Schmidt

DOROTHY LEEPER, Democratic candidate for 4th District Congressman, addressed about 60 persons in the Commonwealth Hall courtyard Wednesday. She denounced U.S. involvement in the war in Southeast Asia and used adding machine paper rolls to illustrate the proportion of the federal budget used for defense.

Her speech was sponsored by a College of Business Administration organization, "Get Out Now," which has collected over 350 staff, student, and faculty signatures on a petition calling for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Indochina.

After 30-year wait

13th closed temporarily

University students and officials have sought on and off for nearly 30 years to have 13th Avenue closed through the campus because of student-traffic conflict.

Throughout the 30-year period city representatives resisted closure because 13th is a key east-west arterial, and because

the University was faced with a lack of financing to help in reconstruction.

The City of Eugene installed signals to direct traffic around the campus in 1953 after a student was run over, but the signals have been used only during class changes.

Community complaints

Even this limited use brought complaints from the community and the system was to have been abandoned in 1955. O. Meredith Wilson, president of the University at that time, came out against the abandonment. City officials then suggested the University install pedestrian overpasses or tunnels. But Wilson said closing 13th would be "infinitely less costly."

The detour signals remained, but soon after, the State Highway Department proposed 13th be closed during the daytime on week days and 11th Avenue be widened so traffic could be diverted away from the campus area. However, cost—\$90,000—blocked implementation of the plan. The city eventually paid for widening 11th ten years later, but 13th remained open.

In the early 1960's a project was presented to the city to cut a diagonal street to carry eastbound traffic from 13th Avenue through the property of Sacred Heart Hospital and Northwest Christian College to 11th Street.

When University students barricaded 13th, permanent closure of the street again became an issue. During the May 11 City Council Planning Commission meeting concerning the street, city plans were brought forth providing for the diversion of

eastbound traffic from 13th to 11th, and extension of 18th Avenue eastward at Agate St. by use of a diagonal, merging it with 19th Avenue, which would be widened between Columbia and Villard streets.

Larry Bissett, head of Planning and Institutional Research at the University, disagreed with these tactics, suggesting 13th Avenue traffic instead be directed into Hilyard street before reaching the campus. Bissett's plan also provided for two-way traffic on 11th Avenue between Hilyard and Franklin Boulevard by widening 11th Avenue.

According to Al Williams, city traffic engineer, Bissett's plan would be more expensive, requiring the removal of trees.

Survey

The city council has decided to conduct its own survey and discharged the city traffic department to erect metal barricades on 13th for a two-week period. Thirty-two automatic traffic counters, supplemented by hand recording traffic movements before the barricades went up on May 20 and will continue during the blockade to determine before and after traffic patterns. Also, license plate studies will be used to determine who uses 13th the most and for what purposes.

The barricade is only temporary; permanent closure requires an official hearing under the law which won't take place before the 29th of June. Before that time, questions such as where the traffic will be rerouted, how much it will cost, and who will pay for it will have to be answered.

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