

Activism movement lives

Analysis shows issues change, but Eugeneans retain energy

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of five stories dealing with the changes in campus attitudes over the past eight years.

By JACKMAN WILSON
Of the Emerald

Oregon used to be the only major university in the country where students could get mowed down by log trucks on their way across campus.

13th Avenue was one of the busiest streets in town. People had been talking about closing 13th for as long as anyone could remember, but nothing came of it until April of 1970, when students took the initiative and closed the street themselves.

the 70s are economic, environmental and social. None are as visible as the Vietnam war, and activist tactics are accordingly less graphic.

Whether people realize it or not, activists of one sort or another have made many changes in the way people in Eugene live and think. The French Pete Valley has not been logged and probably never will be. People can buy practically any kind of food at one of several collectively operated food stores. Voters will have a chance to pass a nuclear safeguards initiative next November.

"In Eugene," Eachus says, "activism has spread out. Many more

rate from the community."

Some campus activists work in the community through programs like CSPA and ESCAPE. Campus environmental groups often form coalitions with off-campus organizations to confront specific issues. Some students have left school altogether, following Mao's advice, "Take your education to the people and learn."

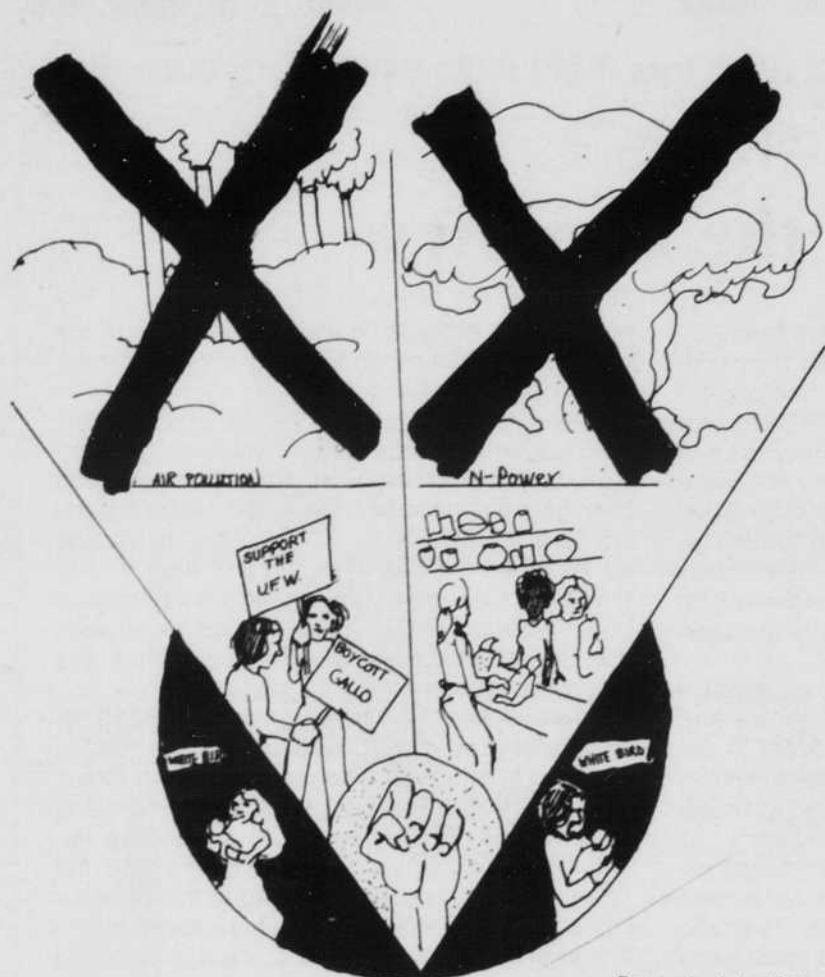
Activism today is more concerned with economics than in the past. "For some people," Jensen says, "it's political just to survive" under present economic conditions. It is no coincidence that political activist groups on campus have made the fight against tuition hikes one of their chief priorities. Students are as worried about the economy as anyone.

"As energy and economy issues get stronger, we're going to see a lot more activism," Eachus says. Already students are fighting tuition hikes on a number of fronts and with a variety of tactics.

Jensen thinks this shows in students' attitudes towards education. "Students are demanding more out of college than just a bunch of stuff between their ears." Jensen says students want tools they can use in the world and a job they can apply them to.

The radical feminist movement, according to Jensen, is "a huge, strong movement, even though they have factions." Jensen thinks the feminist movement is the most unified activist group in Eugene and has the most to gain from activist tactics. Few people were aware of the feminist movement in the "era of activism."

Maybe the days of campus riots are gone forever, maybe they're not. One thing is certain: people are no less committed to their beliefs than they were in the past. Tactics have changed, issues have changed, the world has changed, but anyone who thinks the Kincaid Street detour is the only way activism has changed Eugene should look at the city, its people and themselves.



Today Eugene residents might say the 13th Avenue closure was the only lasting accomplishment of the days of campus radicalism. But Eugene, more than any other Oregon city, has assimilated the ideas of the revolutionary movement of the late 60s.

Many University administrators, government officials and editorial writers are saying, with varying degrees of relief, that activism is dead. According to some of the people who were involved with the movement, however, activism is alive as ever, only the issues have changed.

"People in Eugene are active through the way they live their lives," says Ron Eachus. Eachus was ASUO president in 1970 when the National Guard came on campus to stop a student strike. "People that are active now are active in a community sense."

Peter Jensen, a former member of the Students for a Democratic Society, one of the groups which organized the 1970 strike, agrees. "You can see what the activists are working on now. Some are supporting the farmworkers, some are into local government, some are into local health care, others are into supporting workers' strikes."

The great political issues of the 60s are gone, but others have taken their place. The issues of Oregon Daily Emerald

people are politically active now than when I was at school." He thinks one reason people say apathy is widespread is because different philosophies and lifestyles are more easily reconciled in the less polarized political climate of the 70s.

For instance, the White Bird Clinic has steadily gained recognition from County officials for the contribution it makes to local health services. Most of the negative reaction to alternative services has disappeared. The same goes for the Saturday Market, which has expanded and spilled over to Sunday. Hostility on the part of downtown businessmen has been replaced by a feeling that the Market draws people into the downtown area.

The people who organized and operate these services are activists. Eachus says, "Everything you do has political implications." Many of the people involved in these and other projects are people who were involved in the anti-war movement. People still want to change the world, but the world itself has changed since the 60s.

Part of this change has to do with the place of the university in society. Jensen thinks the political scene on campus can be characterized as "real out-front community politics." Eachus says "We no longer have a campus that's sepa-

Barricades keep fans from harmful stampede

Kamikaze basketball fans aren't such cattle after all. According to Jamie Burns, Incidental Fee Committee chairer, the newly-instituted system of barricading the doors to Mac Court before a basketball game met with "absolutely fantastic" results.

Burns said ticket manager Herb Yamanaka and all the ushers at Mac Court were ecstatic when they saw how well the procedure worked, and students "dug it" too. "The students have proved they are really concerned about the safety aspects involved," he said. "They were actually walking through the doors."

The procedure involved parking three vans on the sidewalk, parallel to 18th Avenue, to thwart students' crowding attempts. Only the northeast and northwest doors were opened.

"Only opening the two doors took so much pressure off it was amazing," said Burns. He said that after the ushers saw how well the system worked, they opened another door to speed things up. "The credit goes to the students in line," said Burns.

The plan worked so well, in fact, that Burns said it will be repeated Saturday afternoon for the Ducks' game with California. The doors will open at 12:45 p.m., complete with the vans.

Burns warned the success of the plan may be temporary, and future pushing at the doors could cause problems. "If Saturday turns out bad," he said, "we may have to go to more restrictive measures."

'Whites' spur drug alert

The Drug Information Center has issued a "street" drug alert, saying a sample of illicit amphetamine purchased in Eugene has been analyzed to actually contain extremely hazardous ingredients, capable of producing lethal effects in users.

The analysis turned up traces of

Brucine and Strychnine, which are capable of producing violent convulsions when used in even small quantities, and dosages of 30 to 60 mg. can be lethal to adults.

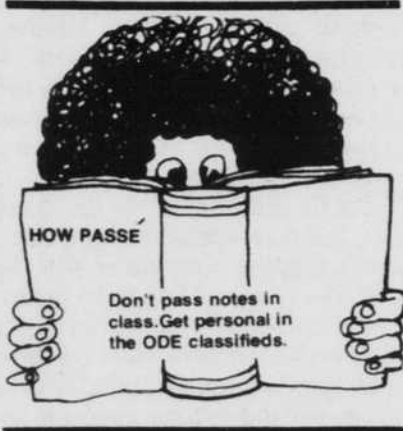
Analysis is provided free and anonymously through the center, located at 1678 Columbia St.

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