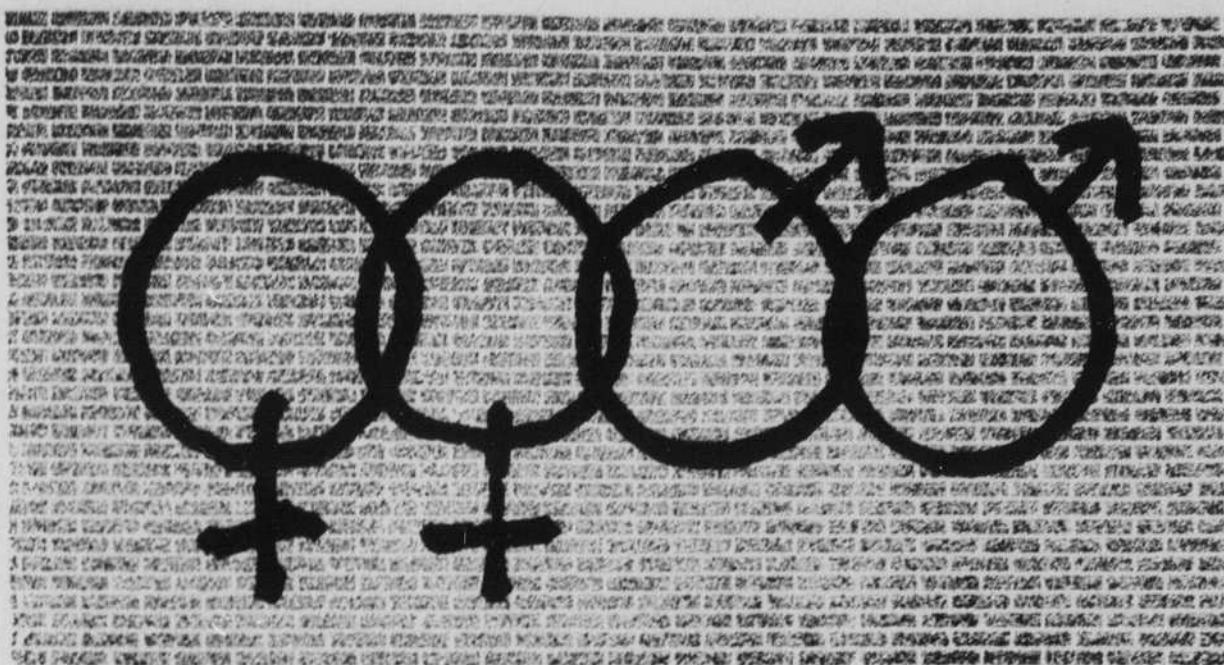




Drawing by Steve Sandstrom

Gays to demonstrate against classified ad refusal

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

"We are not pornographic, filthy, or immoral," reads a statement from the Lesbian and Gay Men's Support Committee. "There are gay people everywhere. We need housing, jobs and some way besides bars to connect with our own people."

In an effort to bring their case before the public, members of the Eugene gay community will demonstrate Saturday at 11:30 a.m. in front of the Eugene Register-Guard. The demonstration has been called to protest the newspaper's alleged discrimination against gays.

The Guard refuses to publish classified advertising with explicit reference to gays, sponsors of the demonstration say. The Guard denies the discrimination charge.

The protest stems from a local man's attempt to place a classified ad reading "Gay man seeking nonsexist household...". Keith, the man who tried to place the ad, claims he was told the advertisement was acceptable over the phone, but was turned down when he appeared at the Guard to make payment.

"I got down there and they were freaking out, hitting their heads with their hands," Keith says. "They were playing games with me and finally told me they couldn't print the ad."

Keith took his discrimination complaint to the Lesbian and Gay Men's Support Committee, a coalition of local lesbian, gay men and feminist groups. Members of the Support Committee met with Register Guard editor and publisher Alton Baker and classified advertising head James McComb.

"The meeting started out real mellow, but it came to a boiling point," Keith claims. "I think they were afraid they will be publishing immoral, filthy ads. They got so uptight about it I got the

feeling they thought the Guard's classifieds might become like the Berkely Barb's."

McComb, however, maintains each advertisement the newspaper receives is judged on its own merits, not in a selective or discriminatory fashion. "An advertisement's acceptability is decided on an individual basis," he says.

The Support Committee has accused the Guard of refusing to use "lesbian," "gay" or "feminist" in classified ad copy. McComb calls the charge "an inaccurate statement."

"We don't ban the use of terms in one section of the paper and use them in another," McComb says. "Such a policy does not exist."

"We have run other types of ads for them and we ran one as late as Dec. 21," he says. "We turn down a vast multitude of ads from a lot of people and businesses. How can we be discriminating?"

The Support Committee claims other ads have been submitted to test the Guard's policy and all were refused. Housing and employment want ads were turned down because words denoting sexual orientation were included, a spokesperson says.

"It is obvious the Guard considers us pornographic and so filthy they won't even mention the words in their classified section," the spokesperson claims. "The oppression we feel is real and it's time gays were looked upon as equal human beings and not trash. People can be educated to that fact."

Plans for the Saturday demonstration call for picketing and chanting. The Support Committee has been informed there will be no police intervention as long as they keep moving. The two-hour protest will take place at the Guard's downtown headquarters, 975 High Street. For more information, contact the Eugene Gay People's Alliance, 686-3360

Council requested to review city tree-cutting ordinance

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

The preservation of trees in the Eugene area has been a matter of continuing concern for the Eugene City Council, and recently came before the council in the form of a report on logging operations in the South Hills area.

Former council member Edna Shirey brought an item to the council's attention last December in which she requested that the city staff look into the logging.

Eugene Parks Director Ed Smith recently reported to the council that the area in question, a piece of land being developed by George Zellner, was being cleared in accordance with the 1974 tree-cutting ordinance.

The tree-cutting ordinance, according to Smith, says that a landowner may not cut more than five 35-inch diameter trees in any one year without filing for a permit with the city. The ordinance does not

set specific percentages of cut, but does call for a thinning percentage to be worked out and approved by the city staff.

Smith said the agreement with Zellner, who was the first to apply for a permit to cut trees under the ordinance, called for a 35 per cent cut of Douglas Fir in the area. But Smith estimated that Zellner had cut nearly 60 per cent of the firs, although Smith later changed that estimate to 38-40 per cent after "going over every square foot of the property." Smith says this is within reason considering Zellner was the first to apply for a permit.

One council member, Brian Obie, said he had gone over the site and that it "appeared to have been raped." Smith responds that any logging operation has this appearance, but he adds that it takes some time for the ground to get back to normal. He says there is no erosion danger in the area.

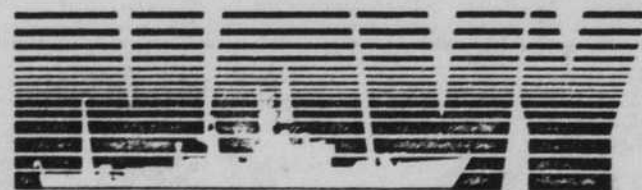
The issue of Zellner's logging

operation has brought the council's attention to the question of whether the tree-cutting ordinance should be strengthened. City Planner Jim Saul said in a council committee-of-the-whole meeting last Wednesday that he felt the tree removal should be conducted after filing a development proposal.

Smith says the ordinance may be made more effective in the way it is administered, and he says that better supervision may be a way to improve the effectiveness. Smith also discussed the possibility of marking the trees before anything is started.

The council has agreed to delay any action on the ordinance until after the final results of Zellner's operation are known, but it directed the city staff to determine if the ordinance can be improved at the staff level before considering any changes in the ordinance itself.

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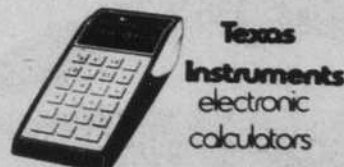
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