

Nudity hearing uncovers public opinion

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
Of the Emerald

Skin is an issue again in Lane County.

More than 400 persons crowded into Harris Hall Thursday to let Lane County's commissioners Jerry Rust and Archie Weinstein know that bare skin is a problem.

The public hearing was held to uncover public sentiments on a proposal to exempt certain areas within Lane County from an anti-nudity ordinance passed by a 3-2 margin in last November's general election. Skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing in public can result in a \$1,000 fine and/or 30 days in jail under the ordinance.

The ordinance, which was put on the ballot following an initiative petition drive led by Rep. Bill Rogers, R-Vida, allows the commissioners to exempt 87 parks and recreational sites, from Hardesty Mtn. in the Cascades to a five-mile stretch of ocean beach north of Florence.

The largely middle-aged and rural crowd that attended the official public hearing was well organized in its opposition to public nudity anywhere in the county. Several rural granges and church groups submitted signed petitions opposing nudity in any form. Thirty five persons testified against nudity, while only eight persons spoke in its favor.

Arguing against exposed genitals, opponents claimed that public nudity is an example

of moral decadence that will lead America down. Sexual pervers will not be far behind if nudity is allowed, they claimed. Most opponents appeared to be most concerned with their children's unwanted exposure to sex education along county roads.

"It is not the duty of the taxpayers to pay for a meeting

place for nudists," testified Santa Clara Grange master Ray Richard. Larry Spielman of the Buford area said horseback riders in the Mt. Pisgah area might encounter nudes along the roads in the area and become so frightened that they would fall off the horse and have serious injuries.

Fuller Royal of Eugene

claimed that in his 24 years in the Air Force, not one nudist was honorably discharged. A Triangle Lake area farmer complained that nudists were overrunning his hayfield, especially during the mushroom season.

At one point in the public testimony, a Fall Creek rancher

went so far as to threaten to shoot any nudists he finds within skeetshooting range of his property.

Although outnumbered (and without God on their side), proponents of sunbathing had their day in court. They said that if no areas were set aside for the 43,000 voters who opposed the ordinance in the election that the commissioners would force them to become clandestine, skinny-dipping criminals.

"People who swim nude love it," Carol Wade of Eugene told the commissioners. "I would much rather be with people with a similar value than be forced by this ordinance to hide out. We need several areas near Eugene and near the coast for people who enjoy a complete tan and the feeling of water over the total body area."

Although they postponed any action on the nudity sites until Wednesday afternoon's regular board session, final statements by the commissioners indicated that cloudy days may be ahead for sunbathers.

Jerry Rust indicated that he disliked putting nude swimming area sites on the map, as it could attract outsiders. However, he said that he would support establishing a site for nude swimming on the coast fork of the Willamette River behind the BRING warehouse.

Weinstein indicated that nude swimmers had two choices: either challenge the ordinance on constitutional grounds or mount a petition drive and put the nudity issue back on the ballot.



Drawing by Becky Young

Spring students express opinion on funds

Male and female students differ sharply in their attitudes toward allocating incidental fee funds and

athletic funds, according to an opinion survey a Portland-based research firm conducted on the

campus this spring.

The survey, which University officials have said will be helpful in considering various University policies, shows 74 per cent of female students feel fee allocations for EMU and ASUO are more important than athletic programs. Only 47 per cent of male students agree.

Nearly half of all women sampled (47 per cent) would also like to see some money shifted from men's to women's athletics, while keeping the overall funding level the same. Of men sampled, thirty-eight per cent agree, but 43 per cent prefer to keep the men's program at the present level and increase the financial support for women's sports.

The survey revealed differences in class attitudes as well. Support for athletic programs, strongest among freshmen, de-

clines among sophomores and juniors but accelerates at the senior level. Graduate students attach more importance to the women's athletic program than to

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male-oriented sports. Nearly three-fourths of this group feel the men's athletic program should be cut back, contrasting with upperclassmen, who are undecided, and underclassmen, who want to keep the men's program at its current level.

A majority of 52 per cent of those sampled support the present system of funding athletic programs by a combination of admission charges and incidental fees.

The study also shows a decisive majority of University students (80 per cent) favoring membership in the PAC-10 Conference. This backing comes from all segments of the student body population.

Somewhat paradoxically, however, students oppose (63 to 29 per cent) raising conference contributions to parity with most other members. Opposition was strongest among graduate students (78 per cent), declining to 62 per cent among seniors and 55 per cent among freshmen.

The marketing research firm of Bardsley & Haslacher conducted the survey. Its purpose was to gather reactions to current use of student incidental fees for sports and other programs as well as gather data on why students attend the University.

Based on interviews with 671 students selected at random, the study indicates that about six in ten students offer "reasonable" ratings for incidental fee allocations in all major categories.

University students paid an incidental fee of \$28.50 per term during the past year. In the allocation of fee monies, the EMU received the largest share (54 per cent), with 30 per cent going to student government programs operated by the ASUO.

In areas other than incidental fee allocations, the survey shows that:

- A majority of students prefer the "quarter system" academic calendar.

- More than half of the students sampled favor keeping present admission standards, and 35 per cent would like standards raised.

Tuesday, July 26, 1977

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