

# Bad ordinance

Monday, the Eugene city council took another step toward passing an ordinance which is aimed at stopping prostitution. But in trying to stop prostitution, the ordinance may also result in arrests of some persons engaged in activities which are not criminal and having nothing whatsoever to do with prostitution.

The wording of the ordinance is vague enough to allow police officers to arrest anyone, male or female, for loitering. The ordinance specifies that anyone who "repeatedly beckons to, stops, or attempts to stop, or engages passersby in conversation" may be suspected of prostitution. It doesn't stop there: anyone who tries to stop an automobile may also be suspect. Limits on police powers are not clearly indicated in the ordinance.

Although the ordinance is aimed at prostitutes, police officers will have the power to arrest hitchhikers and casual loiterers. That opens the door to a lot of arrests based on little evidence, and extends the police powers far beyond what is advisable.

Police will, however, have to give the detained person an opportunity to explain his or her actions. But if the officer doesn't like your explanation, then you will probably end up explaining yourself in court. That kind of harassment opens the door to arrests of innocent people. The inconvenience and embarrassment resulting from an unwarranted arrest is more than anyone should have to put up with.

Another point against the ordinance is that it probably will not solve the prostitution "problem." In recent years, prostitution in Eugene seems to have become more organized, with more pimps controlling the prostitutes. Prostitution itself is a victimless crime; the prostitute and the customer engage in an activity with the knowledge and consent of both. With pimps entering the picture, the victim is the prostitute, not the customer. The ordinance, although it does make pimping an illegal activity, will not work directly against the pimps.

An alternative which might solve that problem would be to legalize prostitution. Licensing of prostitutes would not only make prostitution less burdensome to the community, but it would also help alleviate a serious health hazard—venereal disease, which could be checked by regular health examination. However, given the feeling of a majority of the council members and of the community, that solution doesn't seem likely.

At any rate, the use of an ordinance which will place the rights of all people in jeopardy isn't the right way to go about solving the problem. The city council will have an opportunity to change the ordinance when it comes for a final vote on Oct. 24. The city council must develop a solution which will work more directly against the pimping problem, not one which will step on the rights of everyone. The proposed ordinance must be changed.

## Letters

### Book prices

Last Friday, your headline writer spoiled an otherwise accurate and fairly positive story by Karen Kangas with the headline: "High textbook prices rip-off or not?—Bookstore policy frustrates students." Nowhere in the article was there mention of any policies of the U of O Bookstore that frustrate students. The complaint about buy-back policies for used texts was directed at the University of Hawaii, which pays only 20%. The U of O Bookstore, by contrast, pays students one-half of the purchase price on used texts.

The Bookstore is a non-profit corporation controlled by a Board of Directors elected by its membership—made up of all the students and faculty on this campus. Blame for the high price of textbooks should probably be placed on the publishers—not on the Bookstore. Anyone who is interested in keeping the price of texts down is encouraged to assist the Board of Directors and the Bookstore's manager, Jim Williams, in exploring ways to confront this difficult and serious problem.

As a member of the Bookstore Board of Directors, I know we all would be happy to receive any

suggestions of ways in which the Bookstore might be improved to better serve the needs of the University community.

Write or phone Board members or management at the Bookstore, or attend a monthly Board meeting such as the one to be held tonight.

**Mark Cogan**  
Senior, Political Science

### Open discussion

I am concerned about the articles, and the related advertisements, describing the various lectures, workshops and symposia on the Bakke case. The heading for the publicity has been "If Bakke wins—you lose"; all of the articles have discussed the activities as a day of protest against the Bakke decision in the California Supreme Court.

But when I was asked to be a member of the panel for the symposium, it was made quite clear that this was to be an open discussion of the issues, with a free presentation of each speaker's point of view. It was surely never indicated that the speakers were participating in a move to "overturn the Bakke decision."

My own views do, in general,

## COLLEGE TEST IN

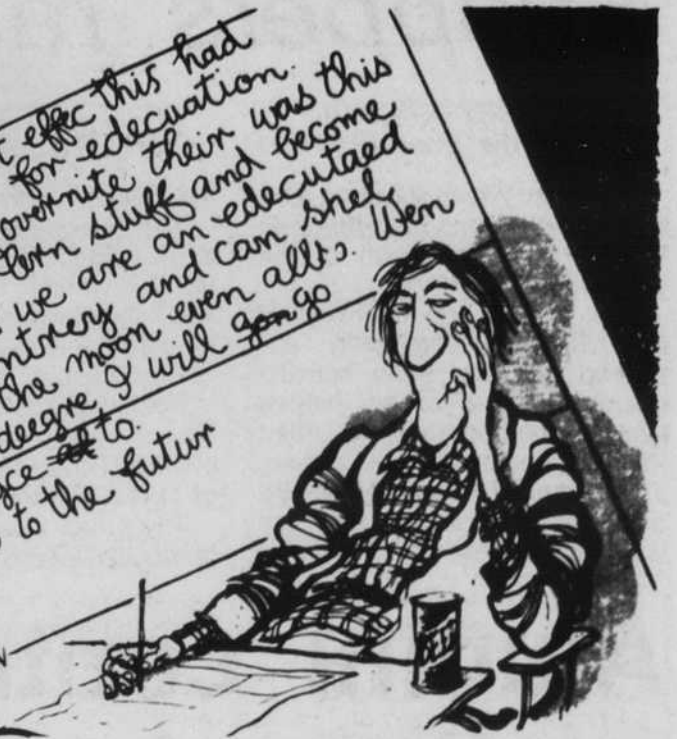
20 years ago the Soviet Union launched the first man-made Earth Satellite. What was its name?

2. What was the most outstanding effect this event had on the United States as a nation?

3. How do you think this will effect our future?

~~Shudnet~~  
The most biggest effect this had on the U.S. was for education. Sudden as if overnight their was this big push to learn stuff and become now we are an educated country and can shed our old ways and go to the moon even all the way into space. I will go go. Well as to the future

NEXT QUESTION



# The neutron bomb and Europe

Submitted by  
**JACK ROBERTS**  
3rd year Law

The Emerald's recent editorial opposing the neutron bomb fails to take note of one of the most important factors in the decision whether or not to develop this weapon — the military situation in Europe.

For years the NATO powers possessed a clear military superiority over the opposing Warsaw Pact forces. Today, this is no longer the case. Many studies have shown a serious imbalance in favor of the Warsaw Pact now exists, and the trends indicate an even greater superiority of conventional forces in the future.

An indication of what this means was given by a NATO report completed last year. It estimated that, in the event of a sudden attack on West Germany, the invading forces would be across the Elbe in three hours and could reach the Rhine within 48 hours, all before the NATO forces could be assembled and deployed at full strength.

At this point an American President would have three alternatives: 1) continue to fight a conventional war, with little chance of success; 2) launch a strategic nuclear attack against Moscow, with the knowledge that a retaliatory strike against American cities would be forthcoming; or 3) utilize smaller tactical nuclear weapons against the invading forces.

It has long been American policy that the third approach — use of tactical nuclear weapons — would be the appropriate response to an attack on NATO. However, with a recognition of the speed with which an advancing army could overrun Germany came the realization that the use of such weapons would necessarily result in massive destruction of German cities and territory, not to mention the inevitable civilian casualties and massive radioactive con-

tamination. Thus the use of tactical nuclear weapons has become less and less a viable alternative.

Enter the neutron bomb. It is essentially a low-yield hydrogen bomb with the heat and blast effect drastically reduced and without the lingering radiation which created the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Although it is not true that the bomb would kill people but leave property undisturbed, the total collateral damage, both to property and civilian populations, would be far less than with existing nuclear weapons.

In the context of a European war, the neutron bomb could be used against enemy troops in occupied territory without necessitating the destruction of Bonn or Frankfurt, and without rendering the countryside a virtual hotbed of radioactive poison.

It is argued that precisely because the neutron bomb is less destructive than other nuclear weapons it is more likely to be used, and will thus lead to an escalation into a full-scale nuclear war. Yet the main justification for the neutron bomb is that, because of its effectiveness, it will be less likely that it — or any other weapon — will have to be used.

To the extent that the use of the neutron bomb is more "Thinkable" than its counterparts, and to the extent that it is perceived as a weapon that we will actually use if necessary, it is therefore a more credible deterrent and more likely to help avoid a situation in which the only alternatives are nuclear annihilation or surrender.

In the end, the case for the neutron bomb is not based on a desire for more efficient and effective warfare. It is the need for a credible deterrent which will make less likely the outbreak of war or of miscalculation leading to war. The question is not whether we want war or peace, but what is the best means of preserving the peace: reliance upon our own military strength, or reliance upon the good intentions of the Soviet Union.

favor the goals which the University of California is trying to achieve. But the case presents serious constitutional and moral issues, and there are arguments on both sides which require the most thoughtful discussion and consideration. It isn't all that easy. As far as I am concerned, I am participating in a discussion and examination of a deeply important problem, not in a protest meeting with a predetermined position.

**Paul Olum**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

### Smoke alarms

An article in the Oct. 6 issue of the Emerald points out that smoke alarms have been installed in apartments at Westmoreland but that there are no plans to immediately install the alarms in the Amazon Housing Project. John Thorpe, former director of Marjorie Student Housing, offers the rationale that the Amazon project has to be "one of the safest housing problems in the city." In the past, when University administrators wanted to intimidate ten-

ants, it was hinted that the project might have to be razed at any time because of the substandard conditions.

Now that the rent at Amazon has been increased to around 70 per cent of the Westmoreland rates, the University has suddenly discovered that Amazon needs very few improvements and that it already stands as a model housing project.

The issue of smoke alarms is a major concern to Amazon tenants, one which will be discussed by the Amazon Family Housing Police Board in the next few weeks. As a result of the rent strike we have been able to institute a procedure by which tenants will be involved in making such decisions rather than relying on the fiat of John Thorpe.

For the present, we would like to remind the Housing Office that the Landlord and Tenant Act (ORS 91.770) requires a landlord to provide an environment that insures "safety from the hazards of fire." There are no fire alarms of any kind in the single story units at Amazon and this alone could qualify Thorpe's description of

Amazon as one of the safest housing projects.

Thorpe defends Housing Office inactivity on this problem by stating simply that things are "up in the air" at this time. The installation of smoke alarms at Amazon has been in the planning, for at least in the promising, for many years. It is time the Housing Office acted.

**Amazon Tenants Council**  
Carol Mason, Pres., and four co-signers

### Letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinions must be typewritten, should be character margins, and using 65 triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the authors major or faculty status noted.