



Ernest Callenbach... 'The world simply cannot continue on as it has been.'

Photo by F.H.A.T. Axmacher

SUAB reorganization would smooth work, says board chairer

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

A proposed constitutional amendment for reorganization of the Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) would permit it to function more smoothly according to SUAB Chairer Cathy Teamen.

Two amendments concerning the SUAB will appear on the ASUO general elections ballot in May.

The amendment for reorganization would establish the SUAB chairer as a representative of the "University-at-large," Teamen says.

"We're reorganizing the SUAB to allow the chairer to take on a more administrative role," Teamen explains. "The new board would have 17 members and a chairer."

Teamen says the chairer and the SUAB would effectively take over the University part of those responsibilities now handled by the ASUO vice-president for state and university affairs.

"It would be a very positive step toward making SUAB more efficient," Teamen says. "Next year is a good time for us to try (the reorganization) out because the ASUO executive will be concentrating on state affairs."

The ASUO executive and the SUAB have been duplicating efforts over the past year, according to Teamen.

"We haven't been able to do our job because there's always been a vice-president handling University affairs. We have 18 members of a board who are theoretically experts from as many different constituencies. But they haven't really been tapped," she says.

If the reorganization amendment passes, Teamen says the SUAB position No. 18 will be eliminated.

"We will have 17 members for two weeks, until a chairer is elected by the new board. That person will then resign from the representative position and a new representative will be elected fall term," she says.

The other amendment would eliminate the necessity for making appointments to the SUAB over the summer term and allow the board to make them during the regular academic year.

Teamen says several positions on the SUAB are now open. Friday is the last day to file for the following slots: Law; Journalism and Speech; both Education and CSPA slots; Physics, Math, Geology, Computer Science and General Science; Art Education, Art History and Fine Arts; Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology; Political Science, History and Geography; Music; English, Languages, Linguistics, Classics, Religion, Philosophy, General Arts and Letters and General Humanities; and Undeclared.

The University is one of a handful in the entire country that allows students to vote on policy issues, Teamen says.

SUAB representatives receive a \$45 monthly stipend.

"I think our stipends don't need to be increased," Teamen observes. "It's actually a reimbursement for having to be on campus for long meetings. The tendency toward giving salaries in the ASUO is appalling."

SUAB terms are for two years. Students interested in filing for a position are encouraged to meet with Teamen in the SUAB office, Suite 4 EMU, at 5 this afternoon.

'Ecotopia' author: fictional land may be just around the corner

"Ecotopia" may be just around the corner, Ernest Callenbach, author of the environmentalist novel by the same name, said Tuesday night, but a new book is in the works to tell readers how the Northwest became the fictitious country.

Callenbach, who wrote "Ecotopia" three years ago, told a Eugene Public Library audience of nearly 150 people that the fictitious land may be coming faster than many people believe. Because of certain ecological and energy factors, he said, several aspects of Ecotopia may become part of the Northwest's lifestyle very soon.

While not many people think seriously about secession except at tax time, Callenbach said, the idea of forming an independent Northwest nation has already become the goal of many people.

"Secession is serious business," Callenbach said. "As far as I know it's still treasonous to talk about seceding from the United

Candidates for ASUO president must file soon

Friday is the filing deadline for the position of ASUO president.

Five candidates had filed for the position as of Wednesday evening. Following the primaries at the end of April, the two candidates receiving the most votes will pair off in the final election in early May.

In addition to the presidential race, one candidate has filed for a position on the EMU Board. The board is concerned with revenue and expenses connected with affairs of the EMU.

States.

"But secession is a metaphor that a great deal of people are using. A lot of people have already seceded from the United States in their hearts," he said.

The Northwest — Oregon, Washington and Northern California — would make a "beautiful little country," Callenbach said. And, if the states were combined into an independent nation, it could be one of the wealthiest parts of the continent.

Callenbach, speaking at the library as part of Earth Week activities, said certain ecological aspects of Ecotopia have begun to manifest themselves in the Northwest life. The fight against nuclear power and toxic sprays by citizen groups and some elected officials is a good sign, he said.

"The ecological side of Ecotopia has never been stronger than it is today," Callenbach explained. "Many elected officials are beginning to take environmental issues more seriously and are leading the fight against nuclear power. Right now there are vast forces on our side."

The nation is also being forced into Ecotopia because of the energy crisis and rising costs of non-renewable energy sources, he said.

"The world simply cannot continue on as it has been," Callenbach explained. "Driving around in big tin boxes on four wheels will have to end sometime."

Using the People's Republic of China as an example, Callenbach explained that Ecotopian society would have to be constructed so all members could work social problems out among themselves.

"This is the kind of thing that Ecotopians would be trying to achieve," he said. "I've found that

it's possible to begin a more active social process to get the type of world we want. That was part of the reason I wrote the book."

As a social reason, Ecotopia is a "reasonable direction" to work toward, Callenbach explained.

While many groups have begun to use Ecotopia as a catch phrase, government officials of Callenbach's native California are taking the book with "playful seriousness," he said, which is "particularly gratifying."

Answering audience questions, Callenbach explained his new book, which is still being written, will not be a sequel to Ecotopia, but a look instead at the elements that led up to the creation of the fictitious state.

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