

VOICE urges support for Ballot 51

By JANIE NAFSINGER
Of the Emerald

Eugene's gay rights ordinance is "a poor law" and is "unnecessary," according to two members of a local group seeking the ordinance's repeal.

Lynn Greene and Brent Rich of VOICE of the People (Volunteer Organization Involved in Community Enactment) spoke at Tuesday's Demo Forum meeting, urging support for Ballot Measure 51, which, if passed, would repeal the ordinance.

The measure, sponsored by

VOICE, will be included on the May 23 primary ballot.

"It's a poor law that ought to be repealed," said Rich, a local attorney. He said the ordinance's language is so broad that it would "protect many kinds of (sexual) conduct anyone would find offensive."

Eugene's Human Rights ordinance bans discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on basis of race, religion, sex, age or handicap. In November, the Eugene City Council amended the ordinance to include the words "sexual orien-

tation." The same month, VOICE started a petition drive to place Measure 51 on the May ballot.

Rich defined "sexual orientation" as a person's belief or practice of a sexual relationship or conduct. Under this definition the ordinance protects not only homosexuals, but other groups, such as transvestites, Rich said.

An example of offensive behavior that would be permitted under the ordinance, Rich said, would be two homosexuals fondling each other in a public restaurant.

Rich admitted his example was "extreme," saying "not all homosexuals would conduct themselves in such a matter." But he said Eugene's new ordinance might be tested by some people "to its full extent."

He claimed that under the ordinance, a restaurant owner or em-

ployer could not prohibit any offensive conduct. "The language is clear; it doesn't suggest any restrictions."

Lynn Greene questioned the need for a gay rights amendment. "Are homosexuals really suffering discrimination?" she asked.

Greene maintained homosexuals face no greater problems in housing and employment than anyone else — in fact, she claimed, surveys show they are economically better off as a whole than blacks and women.

Citing a recent Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group survey of employers, Greene reported 89 percent of the respondents said they would not fire a gay employee unless he displayed "overt or offensive" behavior on the job.

"We're all discriminated against for offensive behavior regardless

of our sexual orientation," Greene said.

Greene said, contrary to many claims, a gay rights ordinance would not result in more community "integration" of gays and heterosexuals.

A similar ordinance exists in England, and its society has become even more fragmented, Greene claimed.

One audience member protested the anti-ordinance arguments. "I'm tired of legal quibblings," said Mary Ann Johnson of Eugene Citizens for Human Rights. "The only purpose of the ordinance is that all people be treated equally."

Both Greene and Rich responded that people should read the ordinance and decide for themselves what it means. Greene said free copies of the ordinance are available from VOICE.

CSPA Veterans Job Fair

The University Veterans Association has been generously allowed to participate in a Job Fair sponsored by Sharon Murphy of the Wallace School of Community Services and Public Affairs (CSPA). This Job Fair will be held May 4th, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and again from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., room 167, in the Erb Memorial Union (EMU).

What is a Job Fair and how does it work? The purpose of this Job Fair is primarily informational and will bring together employers and students in need of jobs. Employers from throughout Oregon will be at the campus. Some of these employers will have jobs they will want to fill right now and others will be looking for certain types of employees in the immediate and distant future. Your attendance at the Job Fair does not guarantee employment; however, it will put you in contact with employers.

How much will this cost? There is no cost, so attend and take advantage of the opportunities being offered. As you register you will be given a Mini-Resume Form. If you desire to do so, fill out the mini-resume form, review the list of companies and available positions, and then determine those companies you desire to meet. Arrangements have also been made for you to draw up a resume prior to the May 4th Job Fair in the Career, Planning and Placement Office (Susan Campbell Hall). Drop in the Placement Office, request a resume packet and have it ready for the Job Fair.

The National Alliance of Businessmen has agreed to work with us and will be helping us in writing resumes, job application forms, etc. There will be a panel of employers (9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) to answer questions which you may have about jobs. Public and private businesses which have agreed to attend the 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. segment are: City of Eugene, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Civil Service, Lane County Council of Governments, VISTA, CETA, Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Pacific Northwest Bell, City of Portland and many more.

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What if you held a forum

Even though students didn't show up for an ASUO-sponsored city council candidate's forum held in the EMU Tuesday, the candidates were there and willing to talk.

Candidates for the Ward 1 position, Emily Schue and Jim Johnston, outlined their backgrounds and stands on various issues rather than responding to questions.

Both candidates feel strongly about controlling Eugene's growth. Schue, a 12-year Eugene resident who is active in several community organizations, said Eugene is "going to have to become a more dense city" to accommodate growth.

Schue continued, saying ways must be found to make the city's higher density pleasant and attractive so neighborhood livability would not be damaged. She mentioned improved and additional parks and recreation facilities would increase this livability.

Schue favored parts of the T-2000 transportation plan that emphasize improved bus service, more bike use and additional sidewalks, but said traffic connectors and arterials require more study.

As a member of several city and county housing boards and owner of a low-income

housing project, Schue has a "personal interest" in improving and making low-income housing more available. She also said "by conserving the older houses, we're doing (the city) a great service."

Both candidates mentioned the invaluable of citizen participation and citizen groups like neighborhood organizations. Noting the lack of audience, Johnston said he thought it "was time now for even students to become active, involved."

Johnston, a native Eugenean and former Crest Drive neighborhood group chairer, stressed growth as his main campaign issue. He equated growth with cancer and said Eugene "is in the early stages. We either deal with it early...or let it go, and if so, it becomes more difficult to solve."

Eugene, Johnston said, is using its resources faster than it can replace them, and he favored a slowdown on expansion to offset extended resource use.

Johnston said although Eugene is taking positive steps in planning growth, it should continue to improve its efforts and "act as a model" for other cities.

... and nobody came?

If you've been wondering what it would be like if they gave a candidates' forum and no one came, Tuesday was your day to find out.

An ASUO-sponsored candidates' forum for four city council positions attracted 10 candidates and two spectators: the forum's moderator and an Emerald reporter.

According to Keli Osborne, ASUO vice-president for state and University affairs, the candidates gave their prepared speeches, talked with the two spectators and left.

The rest of the forum, which was scheduled to last three hours, was cancelled. The remaining candidates, including two incumbent city council members, stayed home.

The forum, which had been advertised in the

Emerald and by flyers, might have failed to draw an audience because many students aren't interested in what happens at city hall, one candidate said.

I wasn't very surprised," said Emily Schue, candidate for the Ward 1 position held by Raymond Bradely. It doesn't bother me and I'm not upset about it or anything. I think it just shows that the University students aren't very interested in what goes on in their city politics."

It may be unreasonable, Schue added, to expect students to be interested in city politics.

I don't know if they should be," she said. I know I wouldn't be if I were a student."

"Apparently students just had better things to do," she said.



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