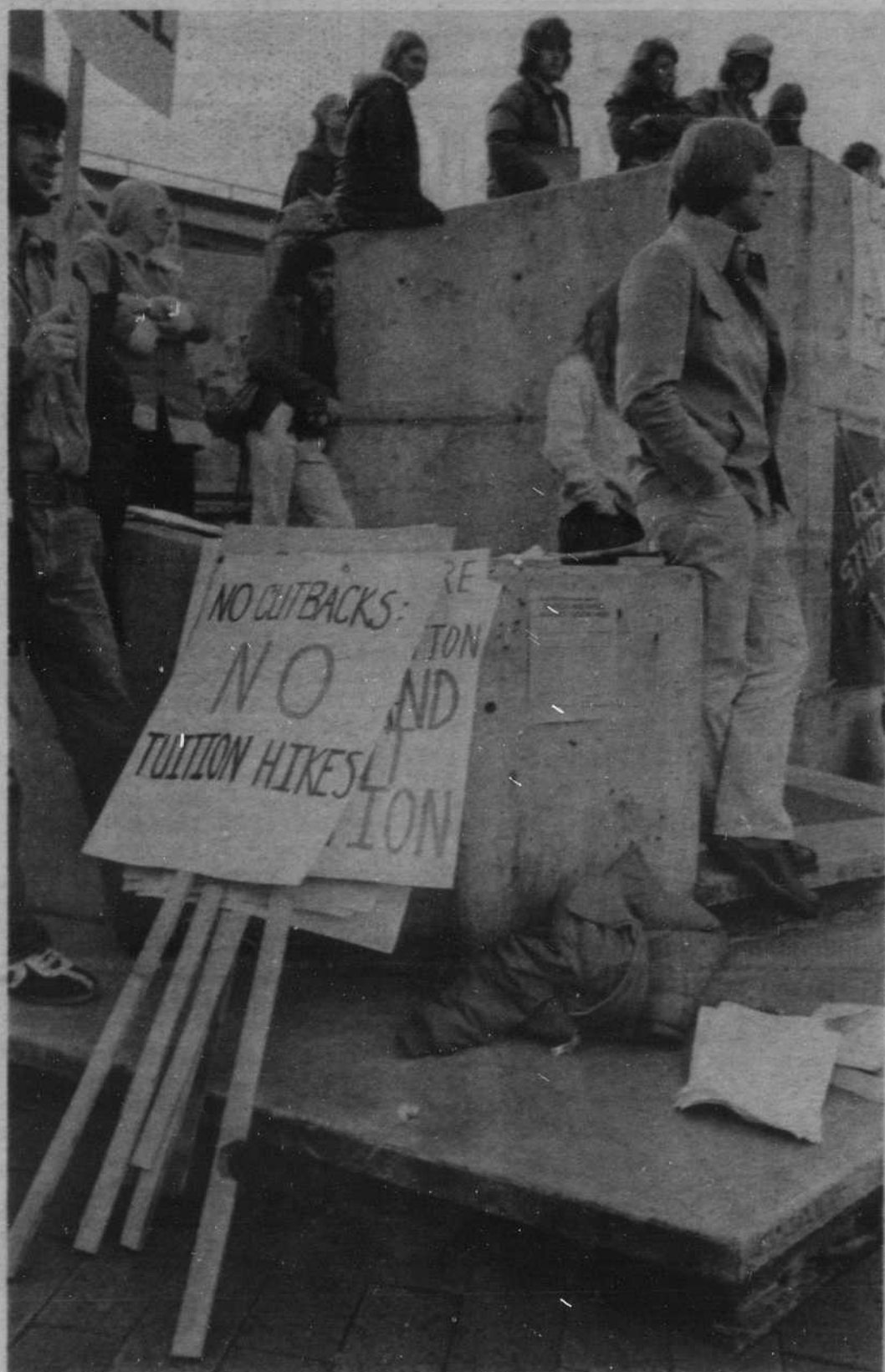




Emerald photo

The new University policy for students using signs like these is aimed at preventing injury, but not free speech. The rules were made after contacting the Kingdome, the Memorial Coliseum and other facilities. Persons wishing to use signs for protest or promotion must now get official approval.

New rule restricts banners and signs

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

The University has adopted a policy governing signs and banners that may help officials avoid administrative embarrassment.

Last year, University athletic department officials found themselves enforcing an informal — and unofficial — policy prohibiting signs in McArthur Court.

A student's subsequent legal challenge to the unwritten policy came just as a new rule was under consideration, but Dave Cunningham, an assistant to University Vice Pres. Ray Hawk says that was just a coincidence.

"We've been working on developing this policy for a long time," says Cunningham.

Cunningham says the University has contacted operators of the Seattle Kingdome, Portland's Coliseum and other regional facilities in designing the rule. "It's more than just signs in Mac Court that we're concerned with," he stresses.

The new rule, filed with the secretary of state's office in Salem last week, replaces the older, unwritten one.

"We'd promulgated and adopted a rule eight to 10 years ago, but it didn't go through the administrative rules procedure," Vice Pres. Hawk explains.

Steve McBride, special events manager for the athletic department, says he previously had no way to control signs and banners at athletic events.

"We officially had no policy," he says. But, he adds, the athletic department expected individuals to comply with an unofficial policy that frowned upon unreasonable activity.

The temporary rule applies to buildings and other institutional facilities in which spectators or participants assemble. Under the new policy, signs and banners are allowed only with the prior written approval of the responsible individual or designee.

Signs and banners on sticks require special attention, the rule states. "You can see people dashing around and someone get-

ting crowned with one of those sticks," Hawk says.

John Kaiser, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade — a group that relies on banners to spread its messages — says the specter of "stick warfare" is a false one.

"It's not like people are banging other people on the heads with their signs or anything," he says.

Under the rule, signs and banners fastened to any structure of a building or structure immediately adjacent to an open space are not allowed without express permission.

Signs and banners that block the view of spectators or participants are prohibited, as are those that present a recognizable health hazard.

Kaiser wonders if the policy will be enforced selectively. "This is the sort of rule that'll sneak by to be used when University officials need it," he says.

Hawk denies the intent of the rule is to "get at" certain groups or individuals, but he admits it has some problems. "I suppose there's always the chance of selective enforcement happening," he says.

Another problem with the rule, Hawk suggests, is its campuswide application. "Whenever you have a rule, you're running the risk of differences in interpretation," he says.

EMU Director Adell McMillan, who helped draft the rule, says it should work very well. It won't inhibit free speech, she says, but it should prevent unnecessary injury or inconvenience.

"And it won't stop pickets outside or inside the EMU, unless people are going into very crowded areas," she adds.

Those interested may examine the rule from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. weekdays in the office of the University president in 110 Johnson Hall, or in the ASUO office, Site 4, EMU. The rule also is available at the Catalog Information Desk in the University Library.

Students and faculty are invited to submit written comments on the new rule to Hawk in 110 Johnson Hall. He says the rule will become permanent in about three months, unless public reaction warrants hearings and further discussion.

SUAB backs open evaluations

By DOUG MCRAE
For the Emerald

The Student University Affairs Board has agreed to support a University Senate motion that would open to students and student groups the statistical information gathered in student's evaluations of courses — with a couple of exceptions.

The SUAB agreed to the recommendations of the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Courses, but will seek a change in the format to include a section for instructor response to the information in the evaluation. The SUAB also wants to strike a clause that would give instructors the power to veto opening evaluation results to students.

"Their recommendation is not quite where we want it, but with the added weight of the SUAB and the Ad Hoc Committee, we have a better chance of getting it through the Senate," says Gary McMahon, SUAB chair.

The SUAB action is a response to faculty motions that would eliminate student access to course evaluation information, which McMahon said are further away from what students want than the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation.

The board also began writing a "statement of intent" that will air its position at Wednesday's Senate meeting. In the statement, the board suggests the Senate adopt a course evaluation amendment so that all evaluations will be in a standard form, all classes will be evaluated and procedures for evaluations will become more comprehensive. The board also agreed to cooperate with other groups in the University Senate in negotiating the issue.

SUAB had intended to draw up its own amendment, but chose instead to back the ad hoc committee's recommendation to avoid confusion and unite with other groups in the Senate.

"Rather than just introducing an amend-

ment of our own, we're seeking to compromise so we will have the added weight of the SUAB and the ad hoc committee," says McMahon.

He also says the instructor's open-ended responses will allow equal time for instructors who feel they are unfairly treated by students.

The board also discussed releasing open-ended responses by students in evaluations and the subject matter of the questionnaires during the meeting, but were unable to come up with any specific suggestions.

It was also suggested by one member that the legality of the opening of the evaluation results be investigated. McMahon said he will talk to Don Chalmers of the Office of Student Advocacy to clear up possible legal problems.

"We will vote as a bloc and try to exercise our weight in the Senate," McMahon says of the board's proposed Senate action.

today

Although rising costs and declining enrollment have more than doubled premiums, ASUO insurance serves 2,200 students. Expanded coverage now includes pregnancies and radiation therapy. Story on Page 3.

Seventy to 80 inmates sleep on the floor of the Lane County jail, victims of prison overcrowding. While a new facility is being constructed, an anti-prison group claims that rehabilitation is nonexistent in U.S. prisons. Page 7.

Tom between that trip abroad and bicycling across the United States this summer? You can do both — in New Zealand. Bill Martin did just that. Read his report on Page 9.