

City aids local arts use

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

Eugene's City Council unanimously passed a proposal Monday night that will change the Soreng Theatre's rental structure to encourage use by local groups.

Instead of charging a flat rental fee for use of the 500-seat theater in the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, the center's administration will use a "sliding scale" based on the "success of the presentations."

Commercial users, who usually sell more tickets than other groups, will pay 15 percent of their gross income, with a \$100 minimum and a \$350 maximum.

Local non-profit organizations, such as the Oregon Repertory Theatre and the Eugene Opera, will have to pay 10 percent of their gross earnings, with a \$50 minimum and a \$250 maximum. And independent professional artists will be charged 5 percent of their gross ticket sales, with no minimum.

Dick Reynolds, executive director of the Hult Center, expects this adjustment to increase rentals enough to raise \$28,000 for the financially-strapped center, give or take \$4,000 to \$6,000.

The center's budget for fiscal year 1984 includes \$28,000 in income from Soreng Theater rentals.

In a memorandum to the City Council, Reynolds said outside groups rented the

theater 71 times during its first nine months of operation, only 25 percent of its available dates. And "probably fewer than five of the 71 events broke even," Reynolds said.

During a public hearing at Monday night's meeting, Linda Devine, executive director of the Lane Regional Arts Council, called upon the media to publicize additional fees for rental of the theater.

So far, news items have ignored what the center calls "reimbursables," costs such as stagehands, front-of-house, security and operations, which can total "hundreds of dollars," Devine said.

Reynolds' memo estimated these additional costs as "roughly \$800."

In other action, the council acted in favor of "bed-and-breakfast" facilities, unanimously approving a zoning ordinance amendment which will allow the rooms-for-rent in low-density residential areas.

The facilities will have to gain "conditional use" permits by meeting standards such as owner occupancy, a maximum of two guest bedrooms, parking requirements and sign restrictions.

Until now, the city has allowed the facilities as a conditional use. However, these standards weren't clearly defined.

This amendment to the city's zoning ordinance should lessen those types of difficulties by standardizing the permit procedure, says Gary Chenkin, of the planning department.

ASUO seeks comptroller, assistants

The ASUO executive office has several job openings.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. Sept. 30 for a budget assistant, a comptroller, two assistants for student events and a publications coordinator, and until 5 p.m. Oct. 7 for three program tags and advertising sales people for the course guide and the new ASUO

newspaper *Not the Emerald*.

Applicants should have a willingness to work hard and an interest in becoming part of an activist, cooperative student government.

Descriptions and application forms are available in the ASUO executive office, suite 4 EMU, 686-3724.

ASUO V.P.'s speech miffs host program

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

A speech by Kevin Kouns, ASUO vice president, Sept. 19 at the grand inaugural of the New Student Host Program's week of activities surprised many University students and upset some students working as NSHP coordinators.

Kouns' speech presented opinions about current and projected future economic trends, the possibility of nuclear war and world starvation while challenging the new students to become involved to solve such issues.

Some NSHP coordinators, all of whom are students, say Kouns did not speak on the available ASUO programs and how to get involved in them, the subjects they requested.

"I think he took advantage of the situation," says Tammie Mason, one student coordinator.

The general attitude among the new students was surprise.

"It wasn't what I expected, I was surprised," says Heather Redmond, a new student who heard the speech.

Kouns says there were a series of miscommunications prior to his speech about the topic and whether he would even speak. But he does not regret the event and would speak on the same subjects again.

Coordinators originally invited ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss to speak but she was unable to attend, so they decided not to invite other ASUO representatives.

But members of ASUO thought it would be appropriate to present a

speaker and, after much deliberation, coordinators decided to invite Kouns to speak. University director of orientation Greg Lobisser, who acts as an adviser to NSHP, then sent a letter to Kouns containing the topics NSHP wished him to speak about.

"I was disappointed that the structure and purpose of ASUO was not covered," Lobisser says, adding that he's concerned about the impression they (new students) now have.

But Kouns says he did mention ASUO programs and invited new students to become involved at the beginning of his speech and that it's senseless to tell people to get involved without telling them why.

In response to criticism that his speech presented a negative picture of the future, Kouns responds that "the underlying message of the whole thing is hope," adding that he not only presented the truth, but also how to help improve situations.

University Pres. Paul Olum, who spoke immediately prior to Kouns, is not upset with Kouns' speech, but says the inaugural was probably not the best setting for the topics.

"I think Kevin has a right to speak about whatever he wants," Olum says. "But I thought it was a difficult speech for new students to take."

Kouns says he made the speech because, "it's appropriate to tell people the truth."

"The realization of our individual self-interests depends upon our recognition of our collective interests," he says.

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