

City Council a community forum

When the city of Eugene considered implementing the West University Parking Program in December, students proved they care about city government. They made their opinions heard and became part of the governing process.

University students filled the City Council chamber to defend their stand on a controversial plan, and they made an impression on the council members. They showed that, although every city issue doesn't merit student action, students will act when the time is right.

Eugene's governing process is formed to encourage public involvement, with eight City Council members chairing community committees and task forces on topics ranging from budgeting to human rights.

The council holds regular meetings in

the council chamber at City Hall, 777 Pearl St., where about 200 seats and two microphones await concerned citizens.

Each Wednesday (except the first Wednesday of every month), the council holds a meeting to take care of smaller matters, leaving the second and fourth Mondays of every month open for public hearings and more important decisions.

Wednesday's meetings are held at 11:45 a.m., and Monday's meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Along with attending council sessions, city residents can voice their opinions through their council representatives.

Most University students are represented by Debra Ehrman, the council member in charge of Ward 3, which includes the University and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Ehrman, a 1980 graduate of the University law school, has served as a staff attorney with the Lane County public defender's office since 1981.

As a former president of the Student Bar Association and as a long-time student of the University, Ehrman says she has a genuine interest in listening to the student voice and in giving it more consideration.

"One voice says we want community input," Ehrman said when she was running for her position in the May primary election. "I've talked to students and a lot of community neighbors who are frustrated. They feel that it's all window-dressing."

To contact Ehrman or to get more information about the city government, call 687-5010.

Celebration —

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The celebration parade will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at South Eugene High School and will make a loop around the downtown mall before heading back to the high school.

On the same day a Children's Faire on the Mall is planned from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Faire will have everything imaginable in store for all ages, including breakdancing exhibitions, singing, mural painting, a balloon send-off, face painting, mask making and even an area set aside just for bubble blowing.

Another sampling of first-rate fun for the young-at-heart is the Funtastic Carnival with all the rides, games and caramelized apples an adventurous crowd could hope for. The carnival will be set up across from The Bon on the corner of Charnelton Street and Broadway and will be open all weekend.

For those seeking a more cultural experience, the Oregon Wine Growers' Association will host a wine tasting Friday through Sunday between West 8th Avenue and Broadway on Olive Street. To add to the pleasure, walking minstrels from every musical category will tour the downtown streets throughout the event.

Local wineries are adding their own touch of hospitality by offering Harvest Tours on Saturday afternoon. Persons interested in a visit to the countryside vineyards should contact area growers for information on tour hours and directions.

Antique lovers should take delight in an antique car show and an antique logging display, both held Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The car show will be located on East 5th Avenue between Willamette and Oak streets, and the logging display will follow a logging competition on West 8th Avenue at the Willamette Street parking lot.

The Saturday Market and the Farmer's Market will make their appearances during the celebration on Saturday and Sunday, offering out-of-town visitors the chance to take a slice of Eugene handiwork back home with them.

A wide variety of art presentations will add color and flair to the city's sidewalks and will give local artists of all types the opportunity to show their talents.

The Eugene Celebration also is going to give bakers throughout the county their own time to shine this year. A cake competition at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Hult Center's central lobby will offer imaginative bakers free dinners and tickets to the Hult Center as prizes.

After Eugene Mayor Gus Keller announces the winners at noon, spectators will be allowed to sample all entries.

Other celebration events include a full free day of musical entertainment at the Hult Center, bike races, an eight-kilometer fun-run and a rock and roll dance. The celebration will open at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the downtown mall fountain, followed by a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m.

O'Brien says the Eugene Celebration's wide variety of events represents the nature of the area. "There's such a diversity in the community. This is kind of a celebration of that diversity," he says.

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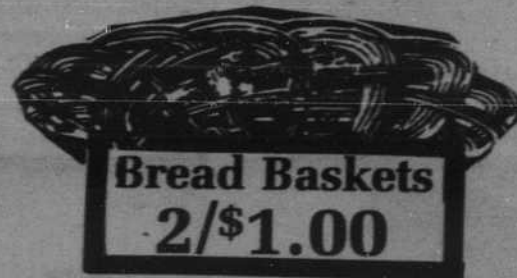
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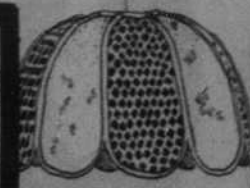
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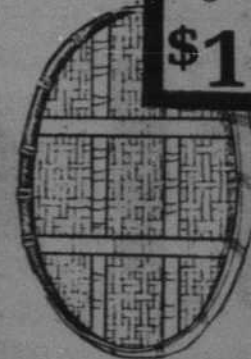
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