

Evacuation plans ludicrous

Nuclear survival a 'fantasy'

By Chuck Palahniuk

Of the Emerald

Despite government disaster plans, if there is a nuclear attack on Eugene you will probably die, according to City Manager Michael Gleason.

"Cities, states, counties, federal governments cannot do anything to mitigate the damage of a nuclear war on the civilian population, and they ought not lie to the public about it," Gleason said in an EMU speech Friday. The speech, titled "Community Planning for a Potential Nuclear Disaster", was sponsored by the University Arms Control Forum.

Gleason said the National Defense Act of 1953 created the Federal Emergency Management Agency to plan for large scale disasters, including nuclear war, industrial accidents and terrorism.

But he argued that there is no way FEMA could make plans for saving civilians from a nuclear attack, that such existing plans are ludicrous, and that FEMA's and America's energies would be much better spent planning for survivable disasters and working toward global disarmament.

"The planning system is so disbelieved and joked about that it is kind of kept secret," Gleason said. "Every time FEMA tried to bring it up, they've just about got beaten to a pulp."

The current FEMA plan calls for the 200,000 Eugene-Springfield residents to scatter to Coos Bay, Cottage Grove and Roseburg. They would not be able to use Interstate 5 because it is designated as the evacuation route for Portlanders. Even if the alternative routes to those cities are open and citizens evacuate in an orderly fashion, Gleason said, there is mass transportation available to move only 600 of the people who don't have their own transportation.

Gleason estimates that nuclear missiles will destroy every city with a population of 20,000 or more. He said that even if some people escape to rural areas, there is no preparation for their food, sanitation or medical needs. Gleason said that anyone surviving the initial attack would starve as food distribution routes are destroyed and "nuclear winter" set in. According to a recent theory, a major nuclear attack would have severe effects on climate, causing temperatures to drop for several months.

Impractical as it seems, Gleason said that FEMA has spent years and a great deal of money creating a plan that merely allows Americans to ignore the problems of possible nuclear war.

"One of the fantasies we cling to in this culture is that there's some way that when the buttons go down — one, 'I live in an area that isn't going to be targeted' — that's wrong — or, two, 'I'm going to be able to go somewhere, hide somewhere, if I have enough doors and shovels.' It's a fantasy. Total, simple fantasy," Gleason said.

By planning for a nuclear disaster, FEMA has left itself "intellectually bankrupt," Gleason said. Because of this, FEMA is neglecting plans for lesser disasters, he said.

"We are doing a very bad job of planning for the things where we can save lives because we have not debased the idea that we can respond to a nuclear exchange."

Gleason said that instead of making what he sees as impossible plans for surviving a nuclear war, Americans should work toward arms reductions and a total liquidation of all nuclear weapons.

"I was heartened by Reagan's comment when he said 'the only solution is no nuclear weapons, not less.'"

minutes

IFC

The Incidental Fee Committee allocated more than \$113,000 at Monday's budget hearing session, while voting to reconsider a previously budgeted allocation of \$75,392.

The Recreation and Intramurals program received \$57,099 with a unanimous IFC vote, while the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group received \$42,775 after some discussion on whether or not the group must first be passed by students on the spring ballot to receive funds.

The ASUO Constitution stipulates that OSPIRG must go on the ballot every two years. OSPIRG last went before the voters in 1983. OSPIRG is awaiting an advisory decision from the Constitution Court, which will state if the group is required to go on the ballot to receive funds or if the referendum is merely a way to show student support of OSPIRG.

The IFC approved \$12,296 to the Student Bar Association, with \$500 placed on reserve for possible future travel expenses.

The Minority Law Students Association received \$1,587, nearly three times the amount the group received for the 1984-85 academic year. The primary increase of \$600 is a new line item for a director's salary.

At the same meeting, the IFC voted 4-1-1 to reconsider the ASUO Executive's budget, which had unanimously passed at its March 6 hearing. Specific items to be recalled include the Executive's payroll and funds for the Women's Symposium and continuing the South African divestiture lawsuit.

Five dance, music and theater-oriented groups received new budgets at Tuesday's IFC hearings.

Allocations included: \$842 to the University Song and Dance Troupe; \$18,721 to the University Theatre; \$4,111 to the

Repertory Dancers; \$6,000 to the Committee for Musical Arts; and \$768 to the University Players.

The IFC voted against funding the Asian Students Association's 1985-86 budget at Wednesday's hearing. A majority of the committee members believed that other student organizations already adequately covered the Asian group's area of activities.

Committee member Lori Ljebberman said that ASA needed to show how the group benefited students before it could receive funds. The group received \$207 last year.

Also at Wednesday's hearing, the IFC allocated \$2,158 to the Muslim Student Association. This reflects an increase of \$773 over last year's allocation, but is \$2,604 less than MSA requested. People and the Oregon Coast was given \$689, and Recreational Folkdance received \$2,449.

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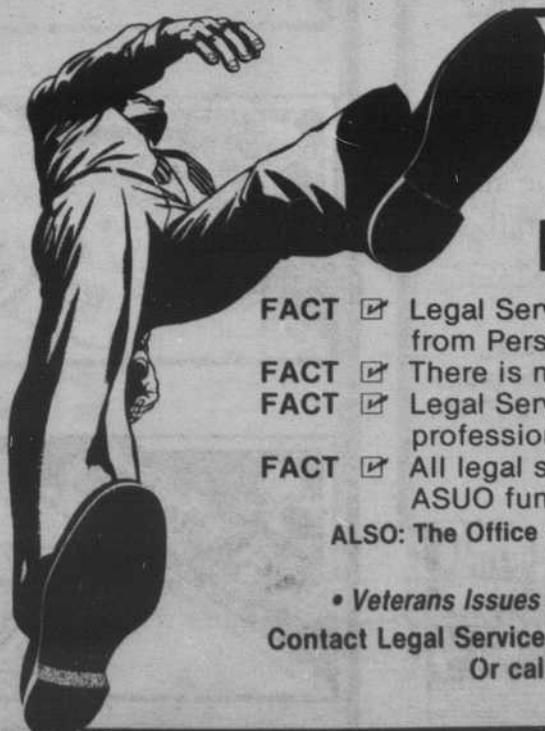
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