

Editorial

City takes positive approach to agenda

The proposed citywide income tax was shot down by a margin of more than 4-1 at the polls Tuesday. But rather than scrap plans to contend with some serious Eugene shortcomings, the City Council indicated that it will reinvestigate the issue and find another way to raise funds.

Following apparent defeat, Eugene Mayor Brian Obie said that he detected public support for expansion of the Mahlon Sweet Airport and improvements to the Eugene Public Library. We agree with his perception. We think that most area residents would like to see these important facilities brought up to date.

Therefore, we agree with Obie and the City Council's interpretation of the rejection as an objection to the method of obtaining the funds rather than an objection to the proposed use of the funds.

We did not support the tax for this reason and suggest that the council's next attempt to collect funds, whether by income tax or by increased property taxes, be by a proposal structured to levy a tax on the appropriate people for the appropriate projects. For example, because the airport is used by people throughout the county, the city alone should not be responsible for footing the entire bill for expansion. Lane County Commissioner Peter DeFazio's proposal that the project be directed to the Urban Services Policy Committee, a county-representative governmental body, was a positive starting point.

By the same token, because the Eugene Public Library primarily serves only people residing in Eugene, city residents should bear the brunt of library improvement costs.

Other objections may have contributed to the measure's defeat. The tax would have been levied on anyone earning an annual income exceeding \$7,500 within the city of Eugene, which includes many non-Eugene residents. Because only Eugene residents were able to vote on the proposal, charges of "taxation without representation" were raised.

In addition, controversy centered on the amount the tax would raise erupted between city and county officials, and some of the designated plans for funds generated by the tax were unclear.

But even though we and the greater part of the city did not support the measure, we do support the procedures on the part of the City Council that culminated in the proposal.

Obie took office in January and with the City Council formed the Eugene Agenda, a comprehensive plan to improve the airport, the library, city streets and other public projects. Before the income tax proposal, designed to finance Eugene Agenda projects, was put to the voters, the City Council spent a considerable amount of time gauging public opinion.

During the summer, the City Council conducted surveys throughout the city and held 50 public meetings to give the citizens the opportunity to voice concerns. We appreciate the sense of responsibility to the public demonstrated by the city officials.

Even though the campaign was unsuccessful, it is clear that the council is dedicated to improving the city of Eugene, and improving it to the specifications called for by the people of Eugene.



AIDS SCARE BRINGS NEW GUILD RULINGS ON SCREEN KISSING

Letters

Free speech

It would seem that the recent controversy over the showing of "Rambo" has become blown out of proportion. One of the implications of the concept of freedom of speech is that people are entitled to choose the movies that they view, even if one of these films happens to be an outrageous example of mindless and gratuitous violence. Perhaps alternatives could be offered, such as a series of classic films including movies like "Gaslight" with Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

Richard Bruce Wright II
Eugene

Too much noise

I am writing this letter during the class for which I am a teaching assistant (History 201, 9:30 MWF, 231 Gilbert). I do not normally while away class time composing diatribes. Today, however, I find ample opportunity to do just that, for the pounding of jackhammers and the whining of power saws, due to the construction project of 13th and Kincaid, makes listening to a lecture on the American Revolution an impossibility. And I am sitting in the front row!

Finding a solution to the problem of how we can ensure a student her/his right to hear a lecture (for which she/he has paid for, no less) is not my task. Rather, I only wish to point out

that this should not be a problem. That is, a student's rights in the classroom in this regard should be a given. Administration, why do you allow jackhammers and power saws to infringe upon our rights? Do you see this noise as just a temporary inconvenience that can be borne by the students for the sake of progress? (That is if destruction of a small parkland of trees, shrubs, grass, and wild animals' homes for the construction of another building can be categorized under the term progress. But this is another question. Or is it?)

Peter G. Borg
GTF, History

Great music

Those who packed into Beall Concert Hall last Tuesday (Oct. 29) heard some of the best contemporary music that Latin America has to offer, during a concert featuring Chilean singer Isabel Aldunate.

The concert was all the more special because Ms. Aldunate dedicated some of the songs to the Chilean women who marched the following day in Santiago to demand Gen. Pinochet's resignation. Herself a human rights lawyer, Aldunate was finishing a concert tour and preparing to return to Chile where she is representing people whose rights have been violated.

Several more cultural events featuring outstanding Latin Americans are being planned during the academic year by the Council for Human Rights in Latin America (located by the U of O Bookstore) and the ASUO's Latin America Support Committee. We appreciate the efforts of the many volunteers who work behind the scenes to bring these people to campus.

Jacques Kapuscinski
Council For Human Rights
in Latin America

Work together

I find it offensive that some people among the women's movement deem it necessary to stereotype men as not being conscious of women's problems or rights. The use of a van to transport women for their safety is only partially useful if it

serves certain individuals.

It seems to me that women on this campus need special privileges because they fear being raped or violated. The groups supporting the use of the van seem to feel that women are the only ones in need of protection from violence. Unfortunately, this is narrow-minded and discriminatory.

Women are not the only ones that can feel afraid for their well-being. Sometimes walking home from school late at night, I have felt scared for any number of reasons. Yes, men can feel frightened too.

Maybe there should be a van to transport people. Some proponents of a transport vehicle for women feel that women will support women if it is used exclusively for and by women. If people use the van then people will give support to people, building up human beings that help each other instead of individuals. If this were the case, then women would not have to say they are forced to be dependent on men and hence become self-sufficient human beings.

It's obvious that what we need is people working for and with each other. This is the solution to the problem — stop thinking in terms of minorities and think about majorities.

Blake Louis Sliter
Political Science

Crazy headline

It was with considerable dismay that I read a headline (ODE, Oct. 28) that said, "Proposed ASUO shuttle could present alternative to women."

I can understand nutritionists presenting fresh fruit as an alternative to junk food, and I can understand pacifists presenting peace as an alternative to war, but what on earth is the proposed ASUO shuttle presenting as an alternative to women?

As I read further, I discovered that the proposed ASUO shuttle was not presenting an alternative to women. Rather, it was presenting women an alternative to walking alone on campus. Somehow, that made me feel much better.

Jim Scott
Graduate, English
Friday, November 8, 1985

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