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the proposed draft. Two spokespeople for the Eugene Bicycle Committee expressed support for the inclusion of a Fern Ridge bike path in the proposal, a project that one spokesperson said had been "delayed in years past."

The League of Women Voters expressed its concern that the CIP had allocated money to the improvement of the downtown mall area.

"What is needed most to enliven Eugene's downtown is improvement in the county, state and national economy," the LWV spokeswoman said. The group commended the overall goals of the budget proposal but asked that the City Council resist the notion that "some tinkering with the landscape downtown will make a significant difference in the level of economic activity."

"This was only a preliminary review of the projects proposed in the Capital Improvement Program," according to one city planner.

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Feminism Continued from Page 1

changing," but we need the realism to say we have a long way to go," Ryan said.

Brown views the situation more critically. "We have a superficial appearance of equality," she said. "There's an incredibly powerful and subtle backlash against feminism right now."

"In order to keep women from completely overthrowing the power system, men have to get us to believe everything's OK," she added.

Society, which Brown believes is controlled by men, is performing a "delicate balancing act to get us to think of ourselves as liberated and at the same time not being so independent that men no longer have the benefit of our economic, domestic and sexual services," she said.

Pope agreed that the feminist movement has been "most successful in issues that have not directly come up against the most powerful and ingrained ideologies," she said.

"The big gains have been spearheading the acceptance of women into work outside the home, and it has certainly agitated for job equity," Johnson said.

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— Barb Ryan

Many feminists believe gains in the work force contribute to the illusion of equality and distract women from the structural inequalities that still exist.

"A lot of young women in high school or early college years believe that they haven't been oppressed even when they've been educated (about the oppression)," said Ryan, who has taught women's studies classes at the University.

"They're under the illusion things have changed," Ryan said. "In answer to 'Are things getting better?' this is an indication they're not."

Pope sees the same lack of awareness, but defended young women. "As a generation they get a bad rap," she said. She believes college women have a fairly high level of sophistication concerning feminist issues, but, "You do feel like you're starting from zero," she said.

"For one thing, it's just age. Older women in that class always know they've been discriminated against," she said. Also, people don't realize that most of the activist feminists in the 1960s were graduate students, she said.

"Older women are not so deluded," said Joan Acker, a sociology professor who studies women and work. Even though inequality and oppression still exist, "the same formal rules apply to everybody so it may be difficult to see what's going on," she said.

This apparent delusion poses a question that currently is dogging the feminist movement: "Are women doing this to themselves?" said Lauren Kessler, a journalism assistant professor who teaches a women and media class.

"If we were united in demanding equal opportunity, we are the majority, and supposedly what we want we should get," Kessler said. Instead, the Equal Rights Amendment was defeated, and women make about 62 percent of what men receive in salaries, she said.

"It's really hard to reconcile those two bits of information unless you come up with an explanation like internalizing sexism," Kessler said. Internalizing sexism is the buzz word among many feminists who see women's acceptance of inequality as one of the biggest obstacles in the path of equality.

"All of us internalize sexism. That's what the whole thing is. The entire social structure is set up to delude us," Brown said. One reason women internalize sexism is because "the image has been that if you are complaining it's not because you have a legitimate complaint, it's because you're weak," she said.

Some women who make it in the career world "tend to see themselves as just being more able than anyone else," Acker said. "These women are almost always minorities in a male world. To survive and prosper they've had to adjust to a lot of pressures others haven't had."

"To be successful in the system you have to be an honorary man," which includes adopting elitist values, she continued.

"They may be denying these things to themselves and others, but if you scratch Queen Bee I think you'll find someone who has been discriminated against," she said.

Ryan believes prostitution and pornography are two areas in which women contribute to their own oppression but believes that society is also responsible.

"Every medium from TV to books to pornography socializes women to be subservient to men, to be really passive," Ryan said. "If a woman has been objectified all her life, she learns the way to get approval is through some sort of sexual means."

"What we do is buy into all of those devalued and objectified images of women," she said. Additionally, society needs to look at "why pornography and prostitution pay so much more than other jobs," she said.

"One reason women buy that is because we don't like to think of ourselves as a victim," Brown said. "For women to have to admit we have been duped is very painful because it makes us almost blame ourselves."

Whether women internalize sexism or not, "there is discrimination. It's not an opinion; it's a fact," Kessler said.

"We live in a society that perceives men to be more valuable," Ryan said. As an example, if women could choose the sex of their child, 24 percent would choose a male child, 20 percent would choose a female and 56 percent would have no preference, according to a Media-General Associated Press Poll.

Among men, 31 percent would choose a male child and only 12 percent would choose a female.

Those who would choose males said they understood or liked boys better, boys were easier to raise, or they wanted to carry on the family name, according to a Dec. 8 Washington Post Weekly article.

Women's status as objects is probably most apparent in the media, Kessler said. "People still sell products with a woman in a bikini sprawled across a drill press," she said.

Sexist portrayals of women can be much more subtle than that and also more damaging such as when women are almost always the ones who have problems and don't have the solutions, Kessler said.

"All of the sex-role stereotypes are incorporated into the commercials as well as the programs," Rubel said. "The media portrays happy, successful, competent women as tiny, thin, young, just emerged from the beauty shop and as still primarily interested in a relationship."

This depiction encourages eating disorders that mainly affect women, Rubel said. She cited an episode of "Dallas" where J.R. Ewing described his wife as being beautiful when she was 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed 117 pounds, which is "clinically anorexia nervosa," she said.

"If a woman keeps herself thin, she makes a statement with her body that 'I'm tiny and helpless and frail so don't expect too much of me,'" she said. This reinforces sexual

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— Betsy Brown

stereotypes, creating an inescapable circle, she said.

"If women are physically smaller, then men perhaps have the illusion that women are toys, less of a threat or less important," Rubel said.

Another undeniable example of oppression against women is rape, Ryan said. FBI statistics estimate one in three women will be raped in their lifetime.

"As far as I'm concerned, as long as sexual violence is as rampant as it is, we still have a lot of work to do to gain equality between the sexes," Ryan said. "Sexual violence or the threat of it works to keep us in our place."

"The big problem to me still is the gender wage gap," Johnson said. Women who work full time make about 62 percent of men's wages, and in total all employed women make about 53 percent of men's wages, Acker said.

At the University 3.8 percent — nine women — were full professors in 1970. By 1985 the total had risen to 8.5 percent, 23 female full professors.

"It's a great big increase, but it's not very big," Acker said. One reason there has been little improvement is that "traditionally women haven't been channeled into the lower-level positions that lead to the higher-level positions," she said.

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