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Group circulates survey on City Council, library

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

A new community group trying to gauge the level of public support for the city's policies is circulating a survey on the city's library and on the effectiveness of the Eugene City Council.

The Community Council published the survey in last week's What's Happening, and members plan to circulate the surveys until March to find out just what Eugene residents think of their city government.

"I have a feeling the City Council is misinterpreting what people want," said Fergus McLean, a University student and one of the group's organizers. "They probably really think they're doing what people want, but I think they're really wrong."

The survey asks questions like: "Would you use the library more if it were open more hours?" "Do you think the present Eugene City Council policies reflect the interests of most Eugene residents?" "Do you think the Eugene City Council should allow the spending of unbudgeted general fund money on the airport without an election?"

Richard Gold, a University student and a member of the group, said about 250 responses already have been returned. The results of the survey will be compiled, released to the media and presented to the City Council sometime in March, he added.

Because city councilors are not paid, Gold said only those who can afford to

run are elected to the positions. "Their priorities aren't necessarily the priorities of the people on welfare," he said.

Gold and other group members have been involved with weekly protests since December at the Eugene Public Library, where they say city officials made several cuts in hours and staffing to help fund the Mahlon Sweet airport expansion, the City Council's top priority.

City officials say the cuts were part of a citywide program to slash 3 percent from city departments to avoid a deficit next year.

McLean said between 50 and 200 people go to the library on Mondays while the group is protesting and are shocked to see that the library is closed. "The library is an issue everybody relates to," he said.

The cutting of the library's hours was the final item in a long list of problems McLean sees with city government that pushed him to get the group started, he said.

With so many local groups committed to so many issues, McLean said the Community Council can benefit from the resources of others. "There are so many groups that are concerned with national and international issues," he said. Getting the groups to focus on issues closer to home could put a strong force behind the fledgling group.

Organizers will hold a public meeting Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Harris Hall to recruit more members.



A celebration of culture

The ribbon dance was one of the many festivities witnessed by the more than 500 people who turned out for "China Night" in the EMU on Sunday night. The celebration of Chinese culture is sponsored annually by the Chinese Student Association and includes Chinese food, music and dance.

Photo by Derrel Hewitt

Procrastination can be controlled, author says

By Tonnie Dakin
Of the Emerald

Everyone procrastinates — it's how one handles procrastination that makes the difference between success or failure, according to the author of a book on the subject who visited Eugene on Saturday.

Most people learn how to procrastinate in school, and college often compounds the problem, said Alyce Cornyn-Selby, author of "The Procrastinator's Success Kit."

"Somewhere along the line we had to learn how to procrastinate," said Cornyn-Selby, who used to teach at the University of Hawaii and has lectured on procrastination at most Oregon and Washington colleges.

In elementary school, every action and activity for children is structured, leaving young students with no choices, she said. Soon, the only choice left for the student is whether to do schoolwork, she said.

"Most students started on the road to procrastination very young and haven't stopped," Cornyn-Selby said.



Alyce Cornyn-Selby

The difference between failure and success in school is whether a student can learn to deal with procrastination, she said.

"My definition of success is, 'Did you get what you want?'" Cornyn-Selby said. "If you get a handle on procrastination, everything will fall into place."

"Everyone procrastinates. That's a given — I procrastinate. Success in life is

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El Salvador delegates return, tell of poor conditions at UES

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Randy MacDonald, Student Senate chairman, and Lisa Loving, editor of The Record, have returned from an eight-day visit to El Salvador with reports on the latest developments at the University of El Salvador. The University shares a sister university relationship with UES through the Sister University Project.

The UES suffered extensive damage as a result of the earthquake last fall, including destruction of the economics building and the student government offices, and damage to the library, the dentistry, and physics, chemistry and pharmacy buildings, MacDonald said.

"The general student body cannot enter the library because all the pillars that support it were cracked in the earthquake, so it was too dangerous for them to allow the general public inside," MacDonald said. "This is a real blow because there is already a shortage of books from the (military) intervention of 1980-1984."

The Sister University Project, in cooperation with other sister university groups in the Pacific Northwest, shipped books there last year.

In response to the earthquake damage, UES officials erected a number of tents around the campus for some of the administrative offices, MacDonald said.

New buildings are now being built out of wood and mortar, but there is a severe shortage of equipment as a result of the four-year

military intervention, he said.

"When we talked with the rector and the secretary for administration in charge of international relations, they stressed, as did the student government and the faculty union, that although the damage from the earthquake was severe, the damage that they suffered during the four years of military intervention when the campus was occupied by the military was far worse," MacDonald said. "The University was still recovering from the intervention when the earthquake occurred," he said.

One thing that struck Loving was the size of the campus — it's equal in size to the University of California at Berkeley, and the medical center at UES is as big as Sacred Heart General Hospital's main building, she said.

"We walked around 10 to 12 buildings that were as big as any at the UO, which are completely unusable. Many of them were damaged by the bombs dropped by the government in 1980," Loving said.

The UES groups MacDonald and Loving met with — the AGEUS (the student body), the ADUES (the teachers union), and the CCTU (the university workers and administration union) — are determined to rebuild the university and speak out on the issues facing El Salvador, MacDonald said.

"They all believe that the reason the military repression came in the first place is because the university had refused to compromise its stance on demanding true democracy, an end to the war and a fair budget

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