

Editorial

Action on cruising could be harmful

The City Council will examine a proposed anti-cruising ordinance Oct. 21 that is intended to stop people from cruising in Eugene. But the council must consider the social and economical aspects of this ordinance before approving it.

The cruisers in Eugene have demonstrated considerable organizational power. If the "Gut" is outlawed on West 11th Avenue, where it has moved after decades on Willamette Street, they will either move to another street or possibly move to more deviant forms of entertainment.

Recently, cruiser Donnie Hedlind organized the participants of weekend cruising on Willamette Street and moved the "Gut" to West 11th. The move was prompted by alleged police harassment and demonstrates the determination and initiative of the cruisers to maintain a gut somewhere in Eugene.

Unfortunately, Hedlind has not been able to keep others from littering and creating excessive noise. Businesses on West 11th have started to complain that the traffic and noise is scaring away customers.

This has forced some store owners to enforce a no-trespassing ordinance for their property. The ordinance allows police to arrest people found in the owner's parking lot if they fail to disperse.

The anti-cruising ordinance before the City Council is another effort to prevent cruising, but it can only limit driving on designated streets. The proposal would "prohibit repeated driving of a motor vehicle along and across one portion of congested public thoroughfare" between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Violation of the ordinance carries a maximum \$150 fine.

The Eugene proposal is similar to ordinances in other cities, including Portland. But after the City of Portland spent \$500 to post signs on Southeast 82nd Avenue informing drivers of the ordinance, the cruisers moved the gut to 102nd Avenue. However, there were not as many cruisers at the new location.

This is an important factor to consider with Eugene cruising. The cruisers already have demonstrated their organizational abilities.

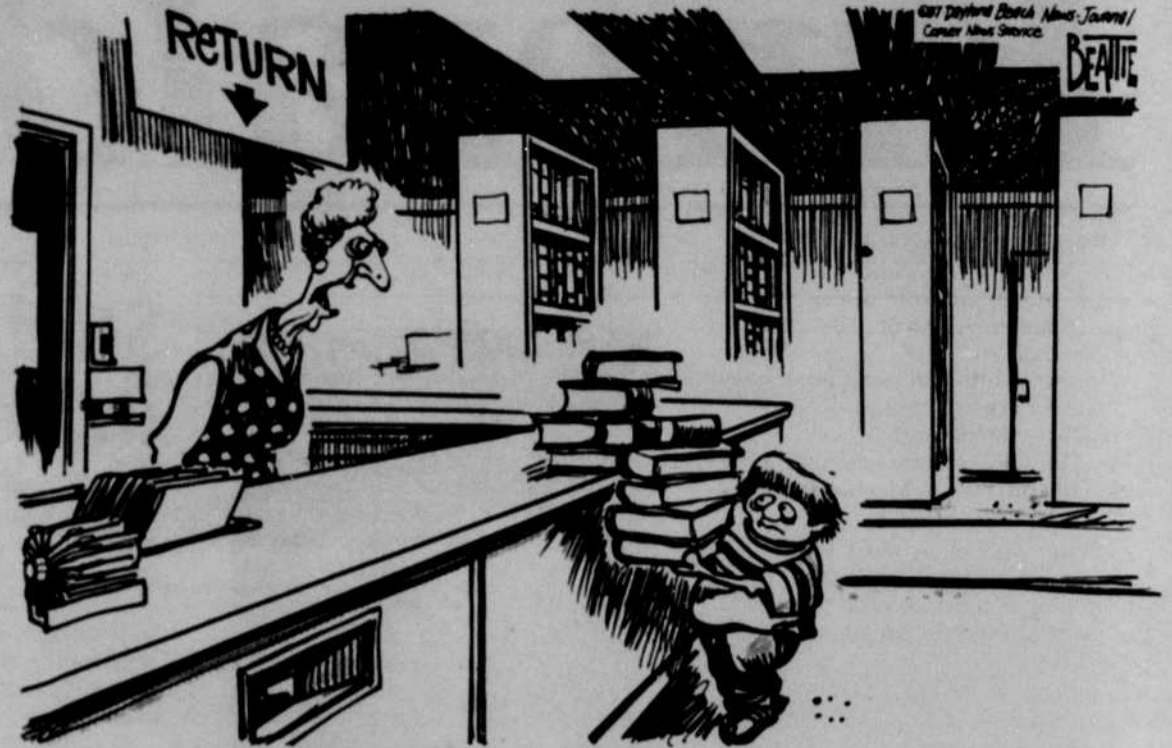
Enforcement of the ordinance also should be studied. In Newark, Del., for example, Sgt. Thomas Penozza complained the cruising ordinance "needlessly tied up police who are needed to handle more serious problems."

Ann Sopko, the mother of a boy cited for cruising, said the law was "idiotic and it's discriminatory. We pay policemen to sit three hours on a corner and look for young people driving old cars."

The monitoring of cars should not take precedence over more important matters. But to effectively enforce the law, police will have to watch the cars and keep track of who's traveling on the street. The council should develop a more reasonable form of monitoring cruisers.

The "Gut" obviously is a vital institution to the cruisers in Eugene. While they should be commended for their efficient move to West 11th, they also should be reprimanded for their behavior on the new "Gut." The move would have had more impact if they had respected the rights of the store owners.

The proposed anti-cruising ordinance is a natural reaction to the problems on West 11th. But it should not be enacted hastily and without thought. The cruisers deserve some credit and, at least, another form of recreation if their "Gut" is taken away.



"TEN OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS?! I hope you're not ever planning to run for president, young man!"

Letters

Last resort

Well now, where's the Greek system going with its latest injustice. It's the Phi Deltas that have crossed the infamous bridge of social inhumanity, suppression, graft, sexism, racism, elitism and violence.

They didn't have the decency to help an injured person. Does this amaze anyone. No. Barbarians you've crossed the most filthy and disgusting barriers.

Nevertheless, I don't advocate having the Greek system abolished. I do have a few suggestions or methods for people for dealing with these or any other transgression of human decency.

It's probably possible to acquire by some means a list of all members of the Greek system. This way you only punish the people that have caused this problem.

Place the animals in a cage after having them covered in hot oil and feathers. Then parade them around campus, throwing things at them of various shapes, sizes and jagged edges.

Have them all joined at the hip so that they have to live with each other for their entire lives.

Round up all the members and tear their limbs from their bodies and while they writhe in agony eat some of their flesh and spit it back out at them.

Make them grow all the ingredients for all forms of alcohol forever.

Employ them as only sanitation workers so that they will have to deal with others' garbage like we must deal with theirs.

For the most part, I'm against violence, but this was appalling, and I'm just venting some anger in writing. Only as a last resort, however.

Blake Louis Sliter
Political science/English

Unclear sign

While walking through the basement of the EMU, a sign on the College Republican's office door caught my eye.

The message was not a product of vandalism, nor did it accuse the organization of racism or fascism. (Unfortunately, such accusations sometimes appear on the CR door.) The sign I saw was posted by the organization. It was taped to the inside of the door's window, making it clearly visible to passers-by.

It was very simple, direct and to the point. The sign was a large circle with a slash through it. Inside the circle-slash there was a red star. Under this, in bold print, appeared the message "SOVIET FREE ZONE."

It scares me that the person(s) who holds such intolerant views may possibly take part in foreign policy formation in the future. It scares the hell out of me.

I urge all students and faculty members who share my concern to visit Room 164 in the EMU basement and ask CR personnel to explain the meaning of their "SOVIET FREE ZONE" sign.

Scott Lewis
Psychology

The true story

This is in response to the three letters written (to the

Oregon Daily Emerald) about the bicycle accident in front of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity Oct. 3.

I am the girl this whole incident is about, and I want to set the record straight. I am not writing to degrade the Greek system or to take sides on this senseless Greek/non-Greek rivalry. My only concern is to clarify events of that afternoon first hand — unlike Mr. Sandor's version (ODE, Oct. 12, "Not Guilty").

I think it was unfair and tactless for Mr. Sandor to say, "They both started laughing hysterically as if intoxicated and walked away." Perhaps I laughed slightly to try to make light of the situation, but Mr. Sandor, how could you be so insensitive to say I was "laughing hysterically" after I fell off my bike and landed headfirst on the pavement? My head was indeed bleeding and required five stitches to close.

In my opinion, Mr. Sandor's statement implies that we wrecked because we were intoxicated. Not true; we were not intoxicated. We wrecked because my friend, riding on my left, turned right at the corner and I didn't.

I would have hoped in any case that someone would have done something to help. Granted, it was a minor accident, but it would have been all right for someone to at least ask if we were OK. Not a single person expressed any concern whatsoever.

It's a shame this turned into a Greek/non-Greek conflict, but lets consider the situation clarified and case CLOSED.

Margaret Thompson
Sophomore

Veracity

Hey Sandor: Oh right! We finished our drinks, joked and fooled around on the sidewalk, then put five stitches in her head while smoking our cigarettes.

Oh, and nobody said a word. Yep, that's just what happened!

Tim Chauran
Journalism

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