

Nuke free task force agrees upon two versions during final meeting

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

The Eugene Nuclear Free Zone Task Force decided Friday to forward two versions of the nuclear free zone ordinance to the Eugene City Council.

The two versions include the so-called "minimally revised version" proposed by five members of the task force in early October, and one proposed by Councilman Rob Bennett on Friday.

Two earlier versions that caused an uproar in September and that led to the creation of the minimally revised version were discarded by task force members at the meeting.

The public outcry, which peaked at a Oct. 19 task force hearing, played a major part in the task force's decision to discard the two earlier versions, said task force member David Zupan.

"It was a rather dramatic turnaround," Zupan added.

The minimally revised version is considered similar to the original ordinance. It would ban the manufacture of "Star Wars" defensive systems and would allow for a seven-member Nuclear Free Zone Board to be elected by Eugene voters, both aspects of the original ordinance. It unanimously was approved by task force members on Friday.

The Bennett version, approved by a 7-4 vote on Friday, is similar to one of the two discarded versions. It would allow the manufacture of defensive systems and delivery systems in Eugene, and would create a nine-member board to be appointed by the City Council.

Although Zupan believes the City Council prefers an appointed board rather than an elected one, "the critical thing is the scope of the ordinance," he said.

The original ordinance passed with 58 percent of the vote in the November 1986 general

election. The City Council then appointed a 13-member task force in January 1987 to redraft the ordinance and clarify legal issues.

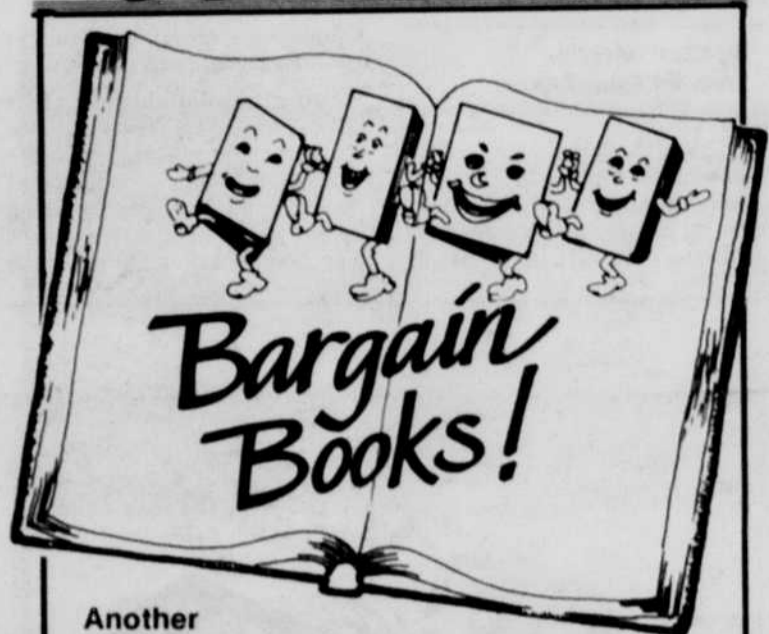
The task force, however, remained divided during the ensuing months about the definitions and scope of the ordinance.

The City Council is expected to take up the matter at a Dec. 7 work session. There remains the possibility that the City Council may decide to submit both versions to voters so they can decide which one they prefer. But Zupan believes such action would be a mistake.

"It does seem questionable to put this back on the ballot," he said. "So much ground work has gone into it...let's get on with it."

"They (the City Council) don't want to have to make a tough decision themselves," added Steve Johnson, another task force member.

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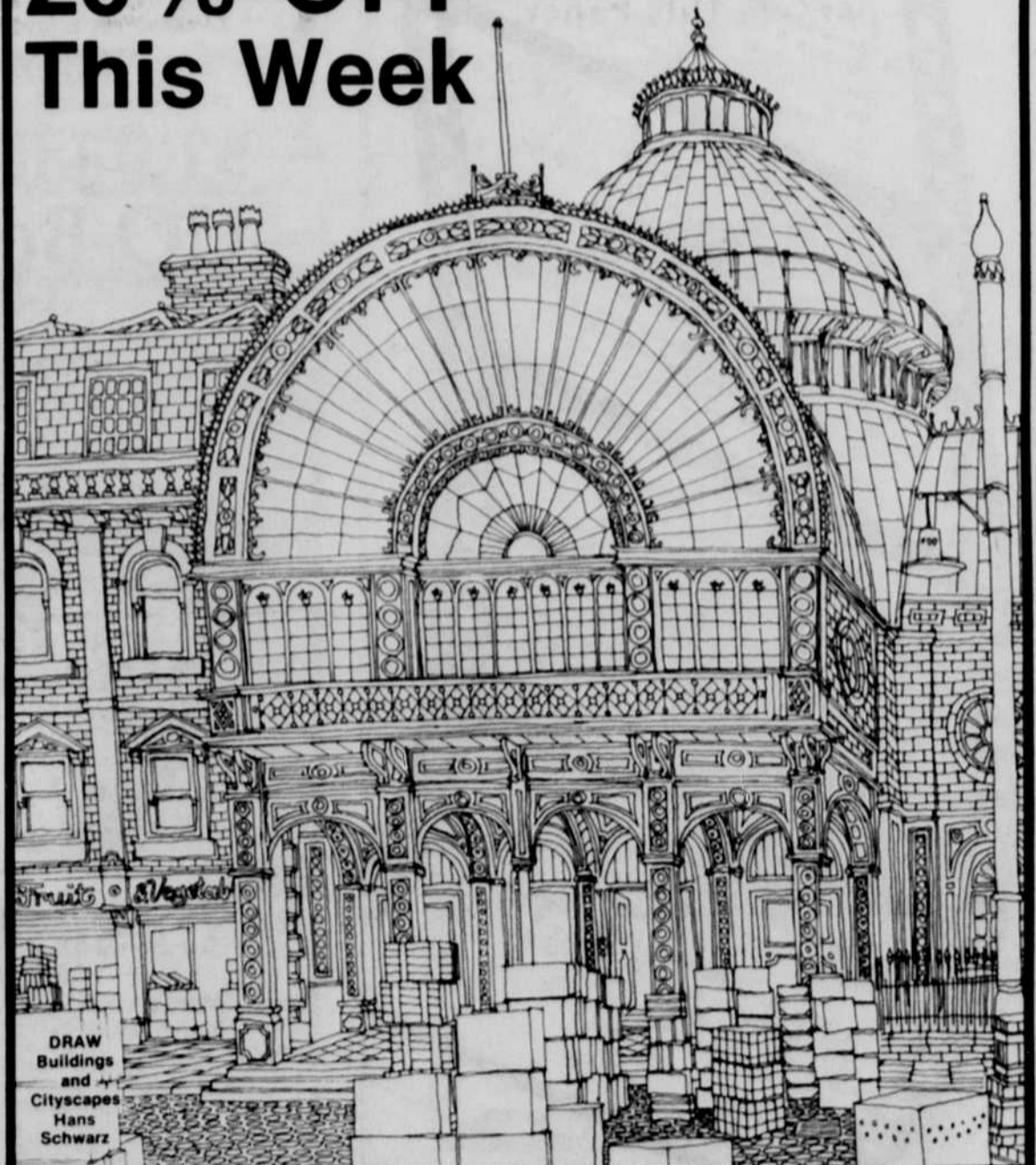
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