

Editorial

Obie's suggestion should be rejected

The Eugene City Council voted 6-1 Monday to send the Eugene Nuclear Free Zone Ordinance back to city voters. Voters approved the measure in the November 1986 general election by 59 percent.

But in order to clarify the wording of the original measure and ensure its legality, the council created the Eugene Nuclear Task Force committee last spring. Last month the committee forwarded two versions of a nuclear free zone ordinance to the council, unable to agree on one of them.

The two versions, the Minimally Revised Version and one prepared by the city attorney's office, will be placed on the May 17 general election ballot. The MRV most closely reflects the original version and is more restrictive than the other version.

Sending the ordinance back to the voters, considering the ambivalence over the issue within the council, is an appropriate though unfortunate move.

However, Mayor Brian Obie's suggestion that a resolution be developed to repeal the ordinance should neither version pass is inappropriate, and it should be rejected by other councilors and the public.

Of course, if voters mobilize on May 17 to once again support the nuclear free ordinance, Obie and the council will be denied the opportunity to repeal the measure.

Even if both versions are rejected at the polls, the council should not repeal the ordinance. Instead, it should start anew from step one and try to develop a version that best reflects the original version's intent.

USSA appropriation shows unaccountability

The Incidental Fee Committee's unanimous decision Monday to give the United States Student Association an additional \$2,690 for travel expenses is an unwise one.

In April the IFC appropriated USSA, a national student lobbying association, \$9,000 for the 1987-88 academic year to fund operating expenses and travel. But because of a \$2,445 cost overrun, the group was forced to seek additional money to allow five University USSA delegates to attend a national spring conference in Washington, D.C. Two local members of the USSA Board of Directors also will attend, but expenses will be covered from its existing budget.

Although we support the purpose of USSA — to promote a host of student interests at the national level — and the University delegation's efforts to represent the USSA Northwest Pacific Region, showcased with ASUO Vice President Karen Gaffney as acting regional chairwoman, we cannot support the decision to grant additional money for cost overruns.

The USSA request illustrates the need for greater fiscal accountability of ASUO groups and organizations. The IFC use-it-or-lose-it attitude for overrealized student incidental fees promotes organizational waste. Greater restriction is necessary to ensure an IFC bailout does not become the only solution for organizations' fiscal ills.



"How 'bout a deal... I'll eat my liver and brussels sprouts if you promise to watch the next presidential campaign debate..."

Commentary

Dances should not promote sex

After last week's dorm-sponsored "Safe Sex" dance, which advertised distribution of free condoms with the price of admission, one would think a dance title couldn't be topped. Guess again.

This week, the lucky residents of the housing system are entitled to "The One-Night Stand" dance at the Carson Dining Hall. Now the recipients can use the free condoms for a quick thrill.

Commentary by
Craig Harris

Dick Romm, Residence Life director for the University Housing Department, said the reasons for these titles is to attract a crowd because attendance dwindles during the winter months. If that's the case, the people in dormland should look forward to dances titled "Take Your Clothes Off" and "The Carson Copulation."

But with attendance decreasing, it will take more than free condoms to attract a "Safe Sex" crowd. Therefore, the dance

sponsor could revert to advertising mattresses located in each corner of the dining hall. Literature on "Safe Sex" could be disseminated to make it look like a public service promotion; but just like the "Safe Sex" dance, it won't happen.

Seriously, though, who would attend a dance to receive an education?

What would parents and alumni think about these dance titles. Will parents from Portland's west hills or southeast Eugene send "Junior" to live in a dorm system that promotes free sex? Not likely.

Besides using a free-sex slogan to attract a crowd, another perplexing problem is that no one claims sponsorship for these dances. Last week, neither the table tents in the dining hall nor the posters stated who sponsored the dance. Did a dorm sponsor it? Or was it the free sex and love group of Eugene?

This week the same nearly holds true. The poster draped across the lobby of Carson and the flyers slapped upon the residents' billboards don't name the sponsor. Apparently the only claim to the dance is a poster in small print about forty feet up on the outside of Dymment Hall, which says Clark Hall is the sponsor.

Whoever the real sponsor is, they discovered a great way to avoid accountability and make a quick buck. Anyone protesting the dance would have difficulty doing so without attending the actual function.

Protesting probably wouldn't amount to anything anyway. The housing department is silent on the issue: it doesn't censor titles unless they break

state laws or policy.

What is that policy? Well, it states that a title can't be racial, religious or sexual. But the latter only regards sexism, not sexual innuendo.

The dorms also are making an encouraging statement on behalf of date rape with complete disregard for the consequences — namely AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Consider these statistics:

According to U.S. News and World Report, 33,000 Americans contract an STD every day. That's 12 million a year. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control report 20,000 people have died from contracting AIDS and 35,000 have developed the deadly virus. In addition, 100,000 to 300,000 are showing symptoms.

Some of these victims probably thought a condom would protect them or a one-night stand wouldn't hurt. But the statistics for condom use aren't much to bank one's life on: the thin piece of plastic doesn't always stop an STD or AIDS.

If dorms are really concerned about promoting the so-called safe sex philosophy, why aren't they setting up booths or having an "Abstinence Dance?" Why aren't they promoting monogamy?

But this kind of thinking is old-fashioned and too right-wing, conservative. Then again, 20 years ago only two STD's were known to exist; no one knew about AIDS.

The line, "It's the '80s, you can't expect anyone to wait," is a cruel lie that the dorms are promoting in order to make a quick buck. And sadly, they're getting away with it.

Granted, the titles are catchy and will probably bring the dorms a profit. But I wonder what the families of the 20,000 people dead from AIDS would think about it.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Submit letters to Suite 300, EMU.

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