

Ordinance Continued from Page 1

According to the *New Abolitionist* newsletter, the U.S. Justice Department in September sued the city of Oakland, Calif. with the charge that the city's nuclear free zone law violated the federal government's authority to provide for the common defense and regulate interstate commerce.

In another Oakland lawsuit, four plaintiffs claimed their businesses were affected adversely.

None of Eugene's businesses have been affected by nuclear free zone laws, Douglas said. However, he expressed concern about future enterprises that may be unwilling to locate here because of the radical image that may spring from excessive nuclear free zone regulation, he said.

Six versions of a nuclear free zone ordinance have been considered. One provision in every version is that the restrictions are "not intended to restrict basic research."

However, the wording of the provision could be interpreted

differently in the future and turn a well-intended gesture into a situation that in years or decades to come could slow scientific research at the University, said John Moseley, vice president for research.

"I'm very supportive of Eugene being a nuclear free zone, but I don't think it really would accomplish anything to have an ordinance as potentially far-reaching as this one," Moseley said.

A broad spectrum of research occurs at the University, none directly related to nuclear weapons but some is nuclear research, he said.

"What could happen is that opponents could push to have that ordinance interpreted in ways that could make it difficult to continue some of the research being done here at the University," Moseley said.

Steve Johnson, research associate for Decision Research, is vice chair of the nuclear free zone task force, formed in January 1987.

He stressed that most scien-

tists support nuclear free zone designation, and that basic research and nuclear medicine would not be affected by any of the ordinance versions.

The laws, he said, are intended in part to prevent nuclear weapons producers from operating in Eugene.

He added, though, that other companies may choose to locate in Eugene specifically because of the city's ordinance.

Johnson supports the upcoming ballot initiative to amend the city charter with the new nuclear free zone specifications.

Grassroots groups including PeaceWorks and the Student Campaign for Disarmament will be campaigning for the initiative.

At least some restrictions on nuclear activity are supported by most local citizens, but amending the city charter is a step too far, said Ruth Bascom, City Council president.

"The majority of Eugeni-ans are in favor of the city being a nuclear free zone, and we are

that," Bascom said.

A stiffer ordinance, though, would bring problems of an elected board, court costs and costs of administering the law, she said. "It would be unwise and poor government to put something like that in the charter."

Johnson said an amendment would be the way to enact legislation that would not be overridden by City Council decisions.

In 1988, when the City Council adopted the revised ordinance in favor of the original, many prohibitions were removed, leaving not much more than a symbolic ordinance, Johnson said.

Even the "Nuclear Free Zone" signs posted at many city entrances were stolen, and under the new ordinance they have not been replaced, he said.

The city's nuclear free status gained more recognition after an international conference. The first nuclear free zone conference in the United States, was held February in Eugene. Johnson was president of the organizing committee.

Fifteen nations were represented there, and Johnson said the conference illustrated that being nuclear free is "not some great evil or Communist conspiracy," but instead is an effort to participate in a worldwide easing of military tensions.

Disarmament is a complex issue that can more easily begin at a local level, he said. "We have a very hard time thinking we can do something at a global or geopolitical level. Doing something in the community is something people can do at a local level, and people take it seriously."

Lawsuits Continued from Page 1

Ann MacNab Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Wildish's subcontractor on Streisinger Hall, filed its \$1 million suit in October against the Wildish company and also named the University in the suit, Pernsteiner said.

"That's a relatively new suit," he said. "We haven't even seen the final papers on it yet."

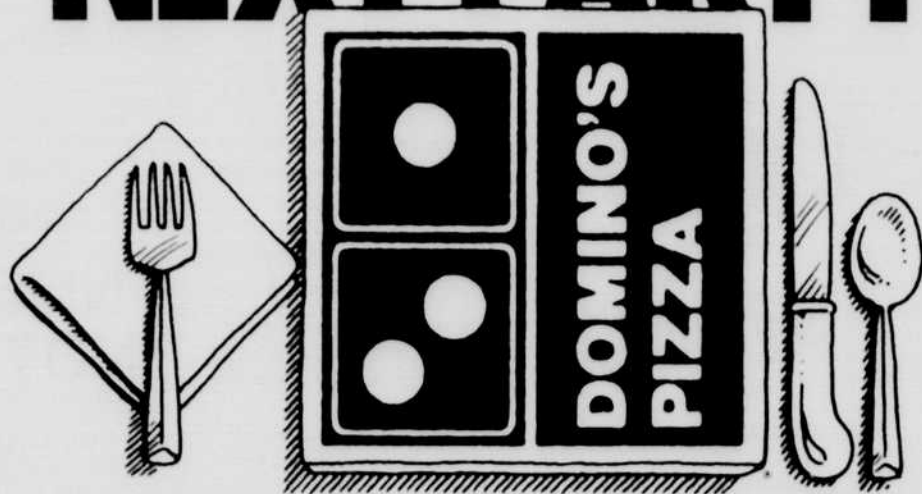
No conferences have been held with the Ann MacNab

company. "We don't even know specifically what they're seeking yet," Pernsteiner said.

Owner Ann MacNab would not comment on the lawsuit.

The lawsuits have not hindered progress on the buildings, Pernsteiner said. Construction of Streisinger and Willamette halls is nearly completed. Deschutes Hall has been finished since July, though minor completions are still being made.

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