

## Voters shouldn't repeal free zone

It seems wherever you look these days, there's no escaping the nuclear-free zone debate. Opponents and supporters slug it out daily on the television screen, over the radio waves, or in the newspapers. But lately, the issue has dissolved into a war of rhetoric, with neither side saying anything new.

However, last Wednesday, Eugene City Councilman Freeman Holmer livened things up a bit by suggesting a complete repeal of the nuclear-free zone ordinance. Holmer said the measure had been rendered obsolete because of "a lot of changes" since the law was approved in November, 1986.

The free zone has polarized the city like nothing else in recent memory. Everybody, it seems, has an opinion on it. But what makes the whole thing more difficult to resolve is that nobody can agree on exactly what the free zone stands for.

Some see it as merely a symbolic gesture of putting Eugene on the record against nuclear weapons and all they entail. Others view it as a strict ban which would exclude any business remotely connected with nuclear power or the defense industry. Opponents see it as bad for business and economic concerns, and just want to see it gone. Many fall somewhere among all three.

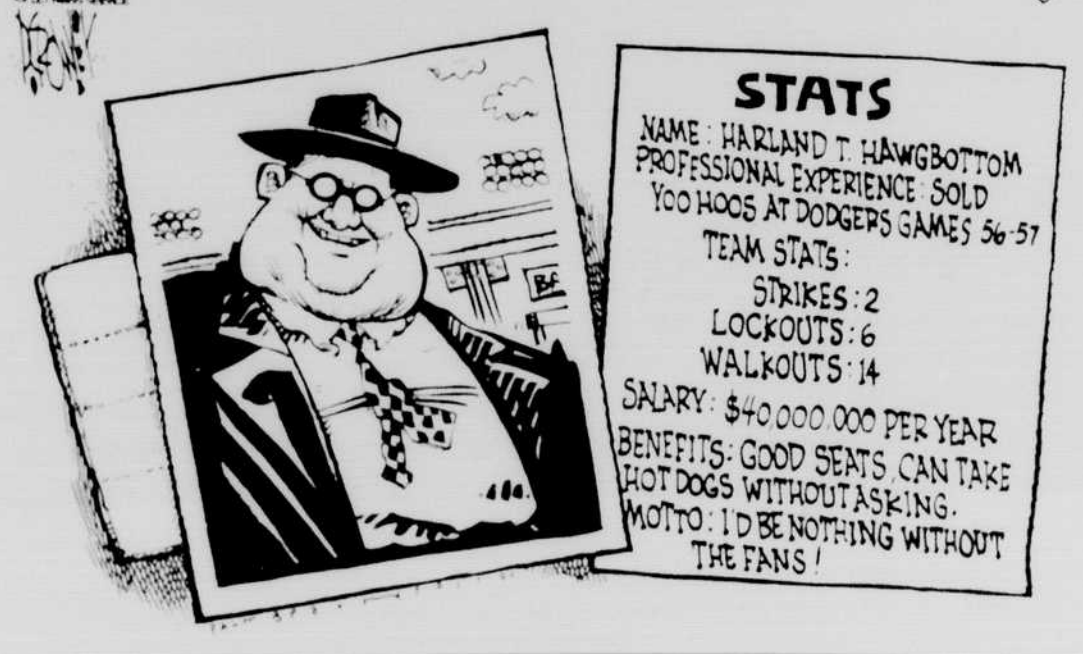
People against the ban sight the Rohr Industries Inc. decision to back out of opening a Eugene plant as a symbol of a perceived anti-business stance among city residents. They say more businesses will shun the area if the nuclear-free zone ordinance is strengthened on the May ballot.

Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette has also stated he is against a nuclear-free zone, even though he has dropped plans to ask that the Lane County ordinance be scrapped. Morrisette wants to see Springfield released from the measure. If that happens, it will be even more difficult for Eugene to keep its ban.

Four years ago, 59 percent — a hefty chunk of the voting population — decided they wanted a nuclear-free zone in Eugene. But because of vague language, the bill is wide-open to interpretations. The May ballot will end all this controversy. Voters will be given the opportunity to clean up the measure, and make it easier to enforce.

The nuclear-free zone needs to stay intact. The May bill clearly defines what falls under the measure's control. And, despite what some hysterical, overzealous business leaders would have you believe, the ban will not destroy Eugene economically. It hasn't in the four years it's been around, and it won't do it in the future.

## BASEBALL OWNER CARDS



## U.S. should take initiative in Nicaragua

It was a welcome change in Central America: a peaceful election in which the losing candidate, in this case the incumbent, graciously handed over the office of president.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's loss to Violetta Chamorro's National Opposition Union in Sunday's election was a surprise to many, including those who had supported the opposition. Now that the reality of a "free" Nicaragua is starting to sink in, the time has come for the U.S. to end its oppression of Nicaragua — not that it hasn't been time for years.

Some unfortunate circumstances surrounded this election before it began. The American government saw fit to batter the Nicaraguan people with a trade embargo and a U.S.-funded civil war. It should come as no surprise that the Nicaraguan people wanted a change, even if the United States was responsible for most of their problems.

The outcome of the elections should be good for Nicaragua — in the short run. The American trade embargo in place since 1985 should be lifted. U.S. foreign aid to Nicara-

gua is already being discussed.

But the prospects for a prosperous, peaceful Nicaragua are anything but certain. More than 15,000 Contra rebels are still roaming the hills, still ready for fighting, and it will be very difficult to tell them the war is over. To make matters worse, the Sandinistas are vowing to retain control of the army and police until the Contras are disbanded.

Chamorro also faces an uncertain political career. Her party is composed of 14 smaller, diverse parties, with political ideologies ranging from conservative to Communist. Because help from the United States won't make it to Nicaragua for almost two years, the untested, unstable president will have to please millions of tired and frustrated Nicaraguans who want their country's ills to be solved quickly.

Hopefully the United States will act — soon — with foreign aid and a pullout of their rebels in the hills. Ortega conceded defeat, and the U.S. government should return the favor.

## Letters

### Trash

Growing levels of solid waste may not be the most glamorous of environmental concerns, but it's an area in which every individual can bring about positive change with small effort.

The average Oregonian produces about four pounds of trash per day. Packaging comprises 30 percent of the total solid waste stream, and 50 percent by volume. Consumers can potentially reduce these figures.

In addition to reusing and recycling the things you buy, you can precycle. Precycling means shopping with the environment in mind. Every time you step to a supermarket checkstand, you can communicate effectively with manufacturers of consumer goods.

If you question the social necessity of individually-wrapped slices of processed cheese, or a microwaveable entree which requires more calories than are replaced by eating it, then don't buy it. Encourage your friends to avoid it as well.

To voice your opinion more directly, tell the manager of

your supermarket why you support certain products and why others are an affront to consumer intelligence and a waste of resources.

Many products have consumer hotlines you can call (at the company's expense) printed on the package. Call with complaints and suggestions, and remember that in order to compete, companies must cater to your preferences, not the other way around.

Solid waste solutions are no farther away than your neighborhood recycling bins, and no more difficult than expressing your opinion to stores and manufacturers and making intelligent purchasing decisions.

Becky Kelley  
Student

### Learn

The United States is slowly evolving into an economic state. Gone is the moral, ideological rhetoric that dominated American conversation. Humanistic concerns have been thrown away in favor of modern, economic policies that fo-

cus exclusively on monetary issues.

American lawyers flock to disasters, including the Bhopal incident, in hopes of gigantic fees. Human lives are measured in multi-million dollar lawsuits. Figures such as Donald Trump are idolized, and super-rich Leona Helmsley cheats on her taxes.

Mergers and acquisitions control the front headlines as companies attempt to squeeze maximum profit out of minimal businesses. Universities throw money into "practical" departments rather than improving decaying liberal arts fields, and the clamor for more money echoes in every government chamber.

It is amid this scene that I value environmentalists. Although I disagree with many of their ideals and tactics, they operate out of true concern.

They don't receive much for their efforts. There is no money to be made from protecting the environment. Days and nights might be spent in jail and the media devotes little attention to them. The Trumps' divorce has

garnered more media attention than they (environmentalists) receive.

It is from them that we can learn a lesson.

Scott Cocking  
Student

### Issues

It seems to me that many people did not get the point of my first letter (ODE, Feb. 16). The issue at hand is not whether or not the CIA can be forced to change its hiring practices. The issue is whether or not the CIA can come onto campus at all.

The people that are pushing for a CIA ban have been working toward this goal for more than 20 years. The homosexual hiring policy is simply another round for them. If tomorrow the CIA announced it would hire homosexuals, they would simply attack the CIA on another issue.

These people are driven by their left-wing, anti-American agenda. Should this small group be allowed to tell other

students that they can not have access to the CIA or the military for job possibilities?

Michael Peeler (ODE, Feb. 20) seems to think that security considerations are not important in the intelligence business. Let me assure you that the CIA would rather have someone that can keep secrets than someone that just does the job well. What use is a "good" employee that sells his or her company secrets to the enemy?

Unfortunately, homosexuals have a very good record as spies; usually for the Soviet Union or another East bloc nation. Guy Burgess is probably the most famous, but there are many others.

If you want to change the CIA's hiring policy, write to your Congressman or Bill Webster, DCI (Director, Central Intelligence). But remember, to keep the U.S. strong and free, the CIA and the military need access to the best minds available, and that should include University graduates.

Eric Eckman  
Student