

ZONE

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ter the council would not have been able to change the nuclear free zone policy without a vote by the people.

Brian Obie, who was mayor at the time the revised version of the ordinance was adopted, said the revisions were made after the city council received legal advice that some aspects of the original ordinance were unconstitutional.

"We would have made the same adjustments if the city council itself had passed (the ordinance)," Obie said. "I doubt the people of this city knew that these questions were involved and I doubt they would want the United States or Oregon Constitutions violated."

Opponents of the charter amendment also feared a stronger anti-nuclear policy would scare away potential businesses — businesses that could help diversify Eugene's economy, which is dependent on the beleaguered timber industry. They pointed to a decision by Rohr Industries, an aerospace firm that decided not to locate in Eugene because they were not sure how a tougher anti-nuclear policy would affect their business. Rohr makes parts for the F-14 jet fighter, which has nuclear weapons capabilities.

Proponents of the amendment alleged that Rohr had never really planned to locate in Eugene and only said they were considering it and then pulled out in order to influence the election.

The nuclear free zone Lane County has had in effect since 1986 was considered much stronger than the one the city of Eugene currently has in place. However, after reviewing the outcome of Eugene's May election, commissioners decided to change the county policy and put it more in line with the city's.

"There was some question whether the county could enforce that policy in the city of Eugene," said councilor Ellie Dumdi. "We wanted (the nuclear free zone policies) to be compatible with each other. It still forbids the building and design of nuclear weapons, we just took out some of the extraneous items."

Those extraneous items re-

moved include the ban on delivery-system components, data-processing hardware and software used in the prosecution of a nuclear war, basic research and components used in defense systems such as SDI.

The new county policy simply prohibits any person from knowingly designing, developing, manufacturing, producing, testing, maintaining or storing

nuclear weapons or their components in the county.

A component is defined as any device that is specially designed to be installed in a nuclear weapon.

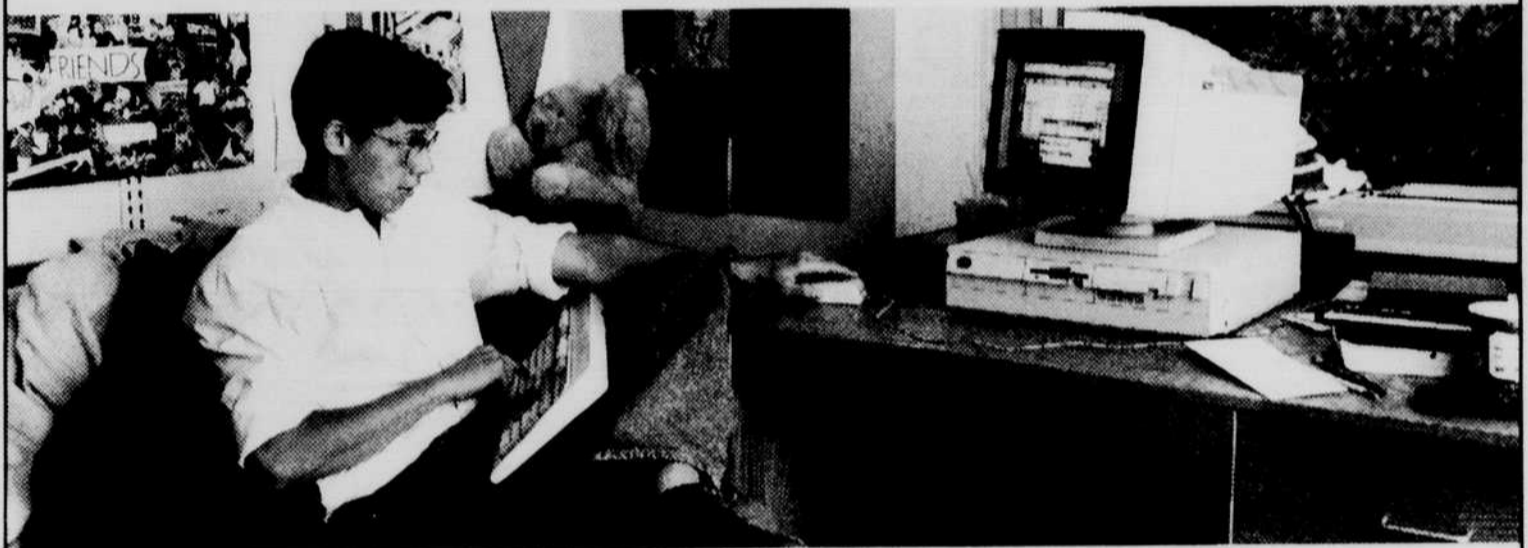
The revised county policy also specifically points out that the anti-nuclear policy does not prohibit "direct activities of the federal government."

The issue of a nuclear-free

Eugene appears to be settled for the time being. Eugene will continue to pride itself on its rural atmosphere and the quality of life it provides its residents. The bike paths will be crowded, the health food stores will continue to sell some of the finest granola in the world and Eugene will remain smack dab in the middle of ... the nuclear free zone.

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