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Springfield debates Rights Commission's future

Focus turns to gay rights, religion

By Gerrit Koepping
Emerald Reporter

The religious right came out swinging at Monday night's Springfield City Council meeting.

The issue was over whether the City Council should permanently disband that city's Human Rights Commission, but the real issue behind the debate was primarily over homosexual rights.

Last week three council members, Ralf Walters, Larry Shanz and George Wojcik, tentatively voted to disband the committee because of the committee's repeated insistence that homosexuals be given protection under the city's anti-discrimination statute.

A final vote was slated for Monday night, but public testimony from many of the more than 450 people in attendance dragged past midnight. No decision was reached by press time.

Before the public hearing began, Rob Du Pree of the Springfield police department said that in 1991 there were four reported cases of hate crimes, three of which were racial. In the previous year there were no reported cases, he said.

Many people who opposed the committee said that since



Joseph Allison of Springfield gives his view of the Human Rights Commission on Monday night as the Springfield City Council debated whether to disband the committee.

there were so few violations, no need for a full-fledged Human Rights Commission existed.

But people such as Sandy Shirley, 1366 L Street, Springfield, countered that Du Pree's statistics only consider violence against minorities and do not take into account the frequency of discrimination and harassment.

Most of the opposition to the commission came from the group's stand on homosexual rights.

John English, Springfield,

said he was concerned about his children and their values. "Springfield residents find it reprehensible to support homosexuals teaching that lifestyle to our children," he said.

He also said if homosexuals were given legal protection, then, for instance, a landlord who didn't want a gay or lesbian couple flaunting their lifestyle in front of his or her children could not protect the children without the landlord losing everything from discrimination lawsuits.

Martin ReVoal, president of the Springfield and Eugene NAACP, said it was impossible to say that one group has protection from discrimination but another does not. He advocated the return of the commission and the protection of homosexual rights.

Daryle Meet, a disabled Springfield resident, came to the opposite conclusion. He said that if you combine the homosexual cause with the cause

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Springfield's City Council controversy

In August 1990, the Springfield Human Rights Commission asked the City Council to add gays and lesbians to the list of other minority groups that are protected by the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. At the time, a majority of council members indicated they would probably support such an effort.

Within days, the No Special Rights Committee, a branch of the staunchly conservative Oregon Citizens Alliance, stated that it would sponsor a referendum if an ordinance was passed protecting gay and lesbian rights.

Three months later, the Human Rights Commission asked the city council to refer the issue to Springfield voters.

In January 1991, the political balance of the Council shifted to the right when two liberal council members were replaced by conservatives, Ralf Walters and Larry Schanz.

Eventually the issue was tabled until a month ago, when the council appointed liberal affirmative-action specialist Ron Sinacore to the Human Rights Commission.

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You have a choice

Because of a billing entry on their fee cards, some international GTFs may believe they are obligated to buy their mandatory health insurance through the ASUO, when in fact, they have the option of buying through another carrier.

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Openings available

Students seeking to round out their fall term course loads are in luck. From physics to political science, anthropology to art history, a few classes are available for student sign-up.

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Smith suspended

The Oregon football team will be without the services of cornerback Daryle Smith, who was suspended indefinitely by head Coach Rich Brooks on Monday, reportedly for disciplinary reasons.

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Two graduates start lecture taping service

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

When Todd Lynch transferred to the University from UC Irvine in 1989, he noticed that something was missing here. After graduating in December, he decided to fill that void and has started a new student service on campus.

After working out a deal with Footnotes, the program that offers written recounts of lectures for several courses, Lynch and fellow-graduate Walter MacBeth have begun a program of taping lectures and selling those tapes to students.

"It's an extraordinary study aid and the students really got a lot of use out of it (at UC Irvine), so after we graduated we decided to give it a shot and see if we could make this service a reality," Lynch said.

He and MacBeth ran their idea by several organizations, both on and off campus, and all made offers, Lynch said. But the two eventually decided to join forces with Footnotes. The new service, known as Replay, has just one term to prove itself.

"This service is a division of Footnotes, but it has to be completely self-sustaining, it has to produce enough money on its own to exist," Lynch said. "After a term, if it's not breaking even, then it won't be subsidized."

Several professors have agreed to be taped, but some have declined, Lynch



Photo by Jeff Paeley

Todd Lynch, co-founder of a new lecture taping service, Replay, gets his tape recorder ready for action. Replay is charging \$15 a term for lecture tapes.

said.

"The great majority have said yes, but there have been a few who are apprehensive about it. And then there are some that are saying yes, but they want to keep an eye on it," Lynch said. "It's a brand-new service, so teachers aren't sure how it's going to work, but for the most part they've really embraced it."

Geography Professor William Loy will have his Natural Environment course

taped this fall. Having used the written Footnotes for several years, Loy said there are some drawbacks to such services, but the benefits are greater.

"I do feel that having these services encourages some people not to come to class, but on the other hand, it's important for foreign students (and) for students who are out sick for a week and

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