

# City Council shirks government duties

When does a government stop working for the people?

After the elections of course.

The newly elected Eugene City Council will take office on Jan. 1, after which they will have the authority to make policy decisions. But until then, the incumbent City Council remains Eugene's governing body.

The incumbent council, however, has postponed action on a proposed restaurant tax because new council members are opposed to the idea. Never mind that the incumbents are still in power, or that the restaurant tax was the only tangible result of the Eugene Decisions process.

Essentially, the incumbent City Council has given up its governing powers for the wrong reasons. When a council is elected, it is to govern for the duration of its term. Seeing as how this term does not end until Jan. 1, the council still has a month and a half to govern the city. It is the current council's responsibility to implement changes as it sees fit. If a restaurant tax was on the agenda before the election, it should be on the agenda afterwards.

But instead the incumbent council is waffling on its responsibilities because the new council has a different perspective. If the same City Council were serving next term, it would continue its plan to put the tax before the voters. A government should not stop governing when a seat changes hands. President Bush is not about to lift the gag rule on abortion clinics just because Bill Clinton won the presidential election.

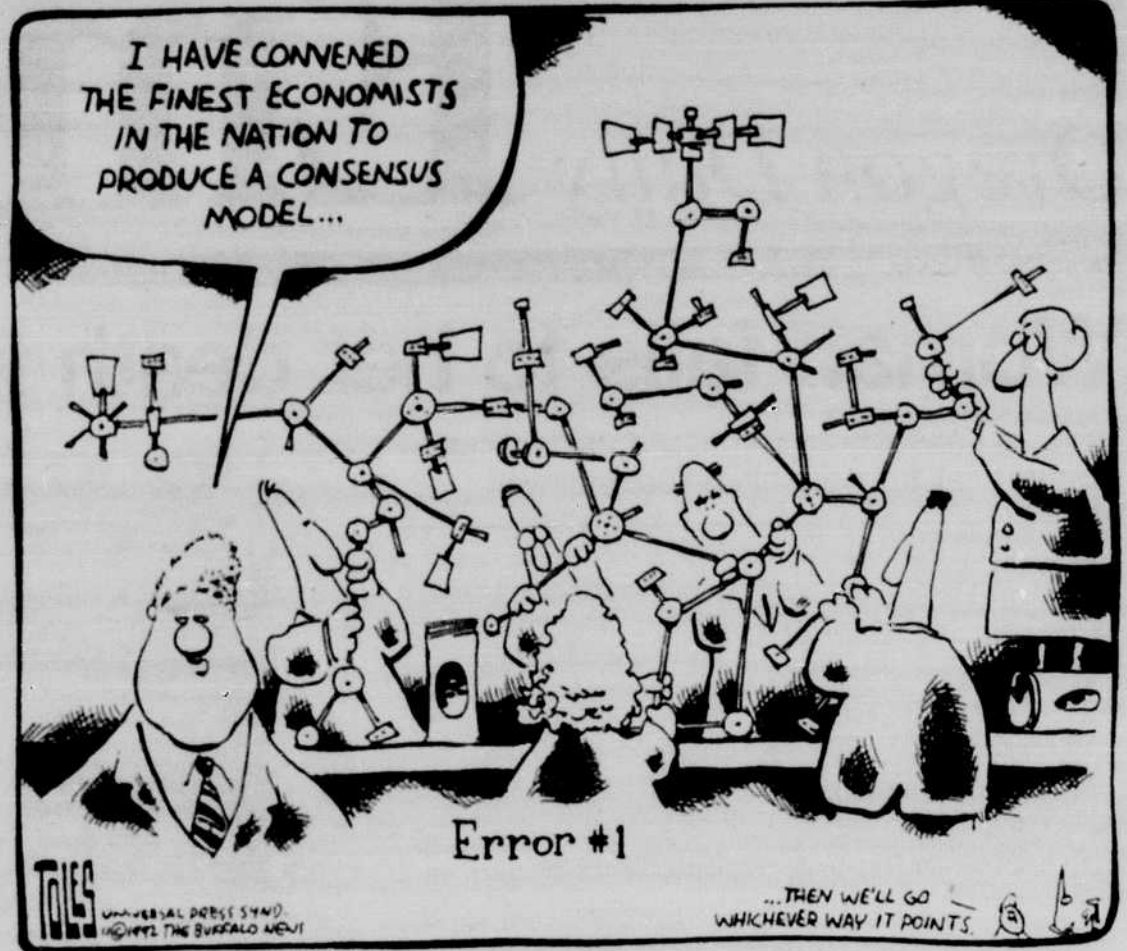
**Now the council is downplaying the Eugene Decisions process — and the \$400,000 spent not arriving at a solution.**

The City Council needs to take a hint from the two biggest office-holders on how to transfer power. Clinton has repeatedly said he will not try to tell Bush how to do his job. His task is to prepare for the upcoming administration, not to influence the current one.

And even though Bush has been cordial toward Clinton's transition team, he will not change his policies during his final two months. He proved he will run government the same as before when he vetoed a congressional tax bill shortly after losing the election.

Eugene Decisions was originally supposed to find the most palatable solution to Eugene's budget shortfall. Participants suggested a restaurant tax and the council indicated it would put the idea before the voters. Now the council is downplaying the Eugene Decisions process — and the \$400,000 spent not arriving at a solution.

If the City Council doesn't want to finish what it started, all the members should ask why they wanted to be elected in the first place. It could have saved a whole lot of trouble.



## OPINION

# Promotion supports stereotypes



**Write Angles**  
Colleen Pohlig

I was all very cute and nice — not to mention dangerously subliminal.

Students who picked up the little cardboard boxes — the pink ones for the females and the blue for males — that the University Bookstore was giving away free last week got more than hair treatment and shaving cream.

They also received a subtle message from the University and advertisers that women should be feminine and sexy toward men, and males need to be strong, smart and appealing to women.

Oh yeah ... I can hear the disgusted voices of some men and women right now saying, "Not another uptight feminist who finds something sexist about everything and anything." In fact, even while talking about this in the office just now, someone said to me, "Colleen, you always get so mad — how cute."

Cute? I have better things to do with my time than be "cute" and complain about meaningless things. I'm writing this because I realize it's the little things, like these boxes, that perpetuate sexism and discrimination.

Last Monday I saw several students carrying these little boxes with the word "FREE" on them. Amazingly, that word seems to jump out at students anywhere, anytime, so I decided I'd check it out.

Out of curiosity, I picked up both the male- and female-labeled boxes. At my first glance of the "female" box, I was stoked to have some Cornnuts and some O.B.s. However, I could have definitely done without the perfume and hair

treatment. Next, I opened the blue box and was surprised to find shaving cream, cologne, deodorant, aftershave, Tylenol and Cornnuts.

The message I got just from these boxes was that I was supposed to smell "nice" and have shiny hair. Also, because my box didn't have Tylenol or deodorant, I figured being a woman means there's no real stress in my life, so I am never supposed to get headaches — or sweat.

From the male box, I gathered that all men should be clean-shaven, smell like something you clean the floors with, and they should stop their stress-related headaches with Tylenol. Oh yeah, and when they sweat (unlike women, remember) they smell like Old Spice.

Well, at least the bookstore had the sense to know that both sexes share a common love for Cornnuts.

I ventured further to look at the advertising included in the boxes and grew even more angered at the different ads and the messages conveyed.

The men received ads ranging from *Inside Sports* swimsuit editions to shaving brochures. The women had glossy pamphlets with catchy phrases like "the Beauty Difference" on them.

Something even more unbelievable caught my eye. On the flaps of the male box was a "special offer" for a computer modem and Prodigy, which is an on-line computer database. Sounded like a good deal — until I checked out the female box. What a joke. Printed on those box flaps was an ad for AT&T Student Saver Plus.

Oh yeah, I get it now. While men are getting headaches and sweating over their computers, women are merely talking on the phone all day — when they're not washing their hair, that is.

Has the University ever

heard of "generic"? Why not have one box labeled "student" that has shampoo, soap, toothpaste and condoms — things that both women and men purchase.

For the last 20 years, the bookstore has bought the boxes from Campus Source, a nationwide company that sells promotional items primarily to campuses.

Jim Williams, general manager of the bookstore, told me it has no control over the items in the box and that it had "no intention of being sexist."

I believe the bookstore staff had no intention of being sexist, but that's not the point. The point is that the bookstore obviously didn't see the division of products and ads for women and men as stereotypical.

Yes, I'm a woman, and believe it or not, I sweat. So why wasn't there deodorant in the female box? Isn't that sending some sort of subliminal message that while men sweat and need deodorant, women don't?

I know - I'm angry about the advertising and the University isn't pushing these products, supposedly.

Nobody is forcing the University to buy these promotional products. Next year, it should make the decision to either not buy the boxes or strongly suggest to Campus Source that they should produce one generic box that has items everyone uses.

It's a joke when your university requires you to take a race and gender class and then turns around and promotes things that define women and men in stereotypical ways.

And one final note: I used more of the items from the box labeled "male" than from the "female" one. Hmmm ... maybe that means I'm not the carefree "lady" I'm supposed to be. Call the gender police.

*Colleen Pohlig is an associate editor for the Emerald.*

**Oregon Daily Emerald**  
P.O. BOX 3159 EUGENE OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

**Editor:** Pat Malach  
**News Editor:** Jake Berg  
**Editorial Editor:** Martin Fisher  
**Graphics Editor:** Jeff Paslay  
**Entertainment Editor:** Freya Horn  
**Night Editor:** Martin Fisher  
**Freelance Editor:** Hope Nealson  
**Editorial Editor:** Rivers Janssen  
**Sports Editor:** Dave Charbonneau  
**Supplements Editor:** Callay Anderson

**Associate Editors:** Tammy Batey, Student Government/Activities; Daralyn Trappe, Community; Colleen Pohlig, Higher Education/Administration

**News Staff:** Chester Allen, Mandy Baucum, Matt Bender, Justin Brown, Sarah Clark, Amy Devenport, Amanda Fernie, Alicia Ferrari, Lisa Haggerty, Teresa Hunsinger, Mary Klein, Lisa Knaebel, Damian McLean, Steve Mims, Tiffini Mueller, Kim Nguyen, Trista Noel, Ellen Shaw, Michael Shindler, Erick Studenicka, Marion Sultor, Michele Thompson-Aguilar, Amy Van Tuyl, Todd Williams, Jacqueline Woge, Heather Zilbauer

**General Manager:** Judy Riedl  
**Advertising Director:** Bryan R. Coppedge  
**Production Manager:** Michele Ross

**Advertising:** Shawn Barven, Scott Dana, Jennifer Hudkins, Jane Irola, Chris Kanoff, Tom Leach, Jeremy Mason, Gillian Oh, Dustin Stadel, Sharon Vaz, Angie Windheim  
**Classified:** Peggy McGinn, Manager; Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve, Susan Updegraff  
**Distribution:** Rebecca Brooks, Kristi Van Gorder, Anthony Wynn  
**Business:** Kathy Carbone, Supervisor; Judy Connolly  
**Production:** Ingrid White, Production Coordinator; Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson, Daralyn Trappe

**Newsroom:** 346-5511  
**Business Office:** 346-5512  
**Display Advertising:** 346-3712  
**Classified Advertising:** 346-4343