

NOISE

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from occurring again within six months to one month. Currently the fines vary from \$50 to \$75.

Sigma Chi fraternity President William Wagon, who spoke against the new amendment at the council meeting, denied the fraternity views fines as "a cost of doing business." On the contrary, he said, Sigma Chi strives hard to be on good terms with its neighbors.

"We understand that we're not above the law, and we do our best to operate at an adequate level," Wagon said.

Sigma Chi recently built a \$3,000 to \$4,000 sound-proof wall facing the neighbors and has practiced a "good neighbor" policy. This includes sending out flyers to neighbors informing them about upcoming functions with an encouragement to call the fraternity if the party is too loud. But this policy has not been too effective.

"Some neighbors say, 'To hell with those guys,' and call straight to the police," Wagon said.

In court, the judge can't really determine the substance of the complaint and whether the caller is what the ordinance says is "a reasonable person of

normal sensitivities," Wagon said.

Located in the residential area at 19th Avenue and Agate Street, Sigma Chi has frequently received complaints from its neighbors. The last complaint came at the beginning of this year and resulted in a \$500 fine, jail time for one of the fraternity's members and a one-year ban on social functions in the house.

Wagon said he believes the city's ordinance is both unjust to the students and leaves too much discretionary power in the hands of the officers responding to the noise complaints.

Todd Packebush, president of the Interfraternity Council, said he believes the proposal is really targeting the whole University community.

"This is a rather strict proposal that will affect all the social gatherings creating some level of noise," Packebush said.

But the new ordinance prohibiting continued noise from amplified sound, and from gatherings of five or more people, also targets businesses. Good Times Cafe and Bar, which is located at 375 E. 7th Ave., is one of the businesses that has received many noise complaints over the years.

Owner Jim Jensen said they are just trying to entertain peo-

ple. "We're in the business of providing entertainment to the community, and we don't feel it is fair that any one person can prohibit 1,000 other people from being entertained," he said.

Jensen said the ordinance is too vague — that anybody can call in and complain.

"We had a neighbor lady complaining who had 19 cuckoo clocks in her living room, and I had to go and put my ear close to the opened window in order to hear our music," Jensen said.

Jensen said he believes the ordinance should give more objective measures for what is and what is not an acceptable noise level.

EPD officer Ken Saxon said the fraternities and businesses are well informed about the rules and are therefore more likely to be issued a citation without warning. Saxon said he does not believe the rules are too vague.

"It is just common sense that we have to interfere when the music is blaring in the middle of the night," he said.

"It is really quite simple. If we can hear the noise when we step out of the car half a block from the party, the noise is too loud," Horton said.

Horton said officers always

give a warning before citing, unless the situation is very aggravated.

One of the most active citizen voices in favor of the new noise ordinance is Dave Sweet, leader of the environmental group Earth and Peace. He has organized support for stiffer penalties from nearly all of the neighborhood groups in Eugene, from senior citizen groups and from several environmental groups.

"This is really a question about respect," Sweet said. He said the noise polluters are disrespectful citizens who deserve stiff penalties.

Shannon McCarthy is chairman of the West Eugene Neighborhood Group, one of the many groups that favor stiffer penalties for noise violators. She said she believes the noise problem has been increasing in the past three years and is a frequently discussed issue at group meetings.

The City Council members will probably vote on the new ordinance within a couple of weeks, and council Vice President Kaye Robinette is one of its supporters.

"We didn't feel we had enough information, that's why we sent it back," Robinette said. "But I will definitely support stronger penalties for repeat offenders."

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NEWSCASTS

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knows and hopes to learn from its mistakes.

"It teaches us what we'll do out there," Dowsett said. "You start out in a small market where you do everything."

Student Brett Coltman said more is taught than just job skills.

"We're learning how to work together as a team, under deadlines, to work together to get things done. We learn social skills and professional skills. It's a great opportunity to make new friends," Coltman said.

"It's a job in every sense of the word, except you don't get paid, you pay for it," he said.

Because the entire newscast is put together by students, there is enormous pressure

for everyone to do their individual task well so that the finished product comes out clean.

"One breakdown can affect the product," Coltman said. "No one person is most important."

"You have to make sure that you are fulfilling your responsibilities to other teammates," student Shannon Dorsett said.

Having the entire newscast left up to students can also be very nerve-racking, Dowsett said.

"Our whole class is in charge. You really have to trust each other," Dowsett said. "In the same way, it is great that we can say that we did this all on our own."

Each student is expected to create one "package" or story a week in addition to a specific job when the show is taped.

Most stories are centered around the Uni-

versity community and feature interviews with students around campus. The students of the class then have the opportunity to see their work on the air.

A lot of work goes into the newscasts, not only nearly two hours each Thursday preparing and actually taping the show, but many hours in and outside the class.

"I haven't been home between eight and 10 for at least three days," student Torild Pedersen said.

Students said the time spent outside of class ranged from 10 to 25 hours a week.

Taping begins at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays so the show will be ready to air at 1 p.m. the same day. The show is also aired at 9 a.m. Fridays.

"We start at 10:30," said faculty adviser Jim Upshaw, "so that if a bomb went off in 20 minutes, we'd still have time to re-start."

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THIS WEEK



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