

Keep city manager; alternatives costly

An ongoing effort in Eugene to eliminate the position of city manager and replace it with an elected council member is a noble attempt to bring accountability and democracy to city government. Noble, but ill-conceived.

If the initiative makes it to the ballot and is approved by the voters, it would replace a system of government that has served Eugene effectively for almost half of a century, putting in its place a newer system that, although arguably more "democratic," is likely to erode the government's efficiency and accomplish little else.

The concerns that have led to the initiative seemed valid at first glance. The city manager, who is appointed by the council and not elected by the people, seems removed from accountability. If the voters disagree with the city manager's handling of public affairs, they are not empowered to recall the city manager or even vote the city manager out at the next election.

This in no way indicates, however, that the city manager is untouchable. A simple majority vote of the City Council, and the city manager is out. Period. And the council members are elected by the people. It is unlikely that they would remain in office if the city manager was unpopular with the public.

Replacing the city manager with an elected council chairperson would increase the accountability of city government slightly, but it would do so at a terrible cost in efficiency.

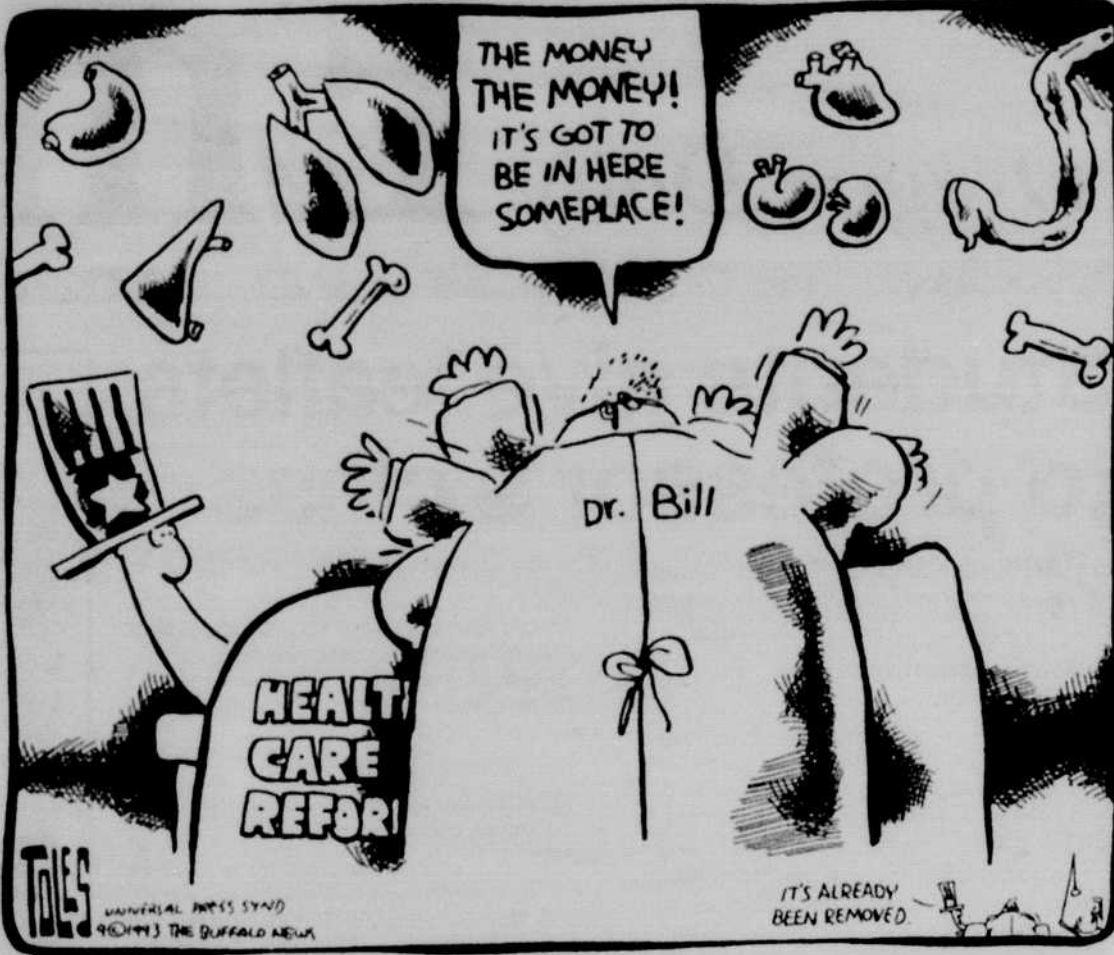
First, the new chairperson would have all of the responsibilities of the old city manager, but with the added task shouldered by every other elected official in the country: getting re-elected. This would not only slow things down, but would also force the chairperson to respond to whichever special interests made possible his election.

Besides, it makes more sense to have the City Council choose a city manager based on experience and qualifications than to force the public to elect one based on lawn signs and television commercials. The public is simply not as likely to make an informed decision.

Supporters of the initiative also assert that, under the current system, the city manager makes the policy, and the council merely approves it. The manager provides much of the information that the council uses to make decisions, and therefore, it is argued, the city manager is able to manipulate the council by withholding or downplaying any facts that do not support the city manager's position.

In an attempt to address this problem, the initiative also includes a provision to give a salary and benefits to each council member — including the chairperson and the mayor, who, under the current system, are unpaid volunteers. This idea has merit, because it would allow council members to spend more time away from other jobs and more time dealing with public policy. Unfortunately, that assumes that the more than \$200,000 that it would cost could be found somewhere without harming city services.

Under the circumstances, the drastic reforms suggested in the initiative are unnecessary and costly. The idea of restructuring Eugene's city government is founded in legitimate but exaggerated fears, and if a solution is needed, it will hopefully take a different form than this one.



OPINION

Better methods to prevent rape



LIA SALICCIA

There has got to be a better way to prevent date rape. Better than the new "policy" devised by Antioch University that stops short of placing video monitors in dorm rooms to make sure students are having politically correct sexual relations.

"If you want to take her blouse off, you have to ask. If you want to touch her breast, you have to ask. If you want to move your hand down to her genitals, you have to ask. If you want to put your finger inside her, you have to ask," said Karen Hall — simply called an "advocate" by Jane Gross of the *New York Times* — to a room

full of freshman men.

It was Hall's job to explain Antioch's new sexual offense policy, which requires step-by-step consent with each new sexual act.

So what did Hall say to the room full of freshman girls? If you want to lick his ear, you have to ask, if you want to feel his chest, you have to ask, if you want to grope his member, you have to ask?

Of course not. Young women are helpless waifs who don't have a clue about holding their own in the sexual arena. Their job is just to lay there and consent, or disagree to being acted upon.

And young men are too stupid to be taught to respect women's bodies, and that no means no.

It's just too scary to educate people as stupid as college freshmen about what acquaintance rape is and how information and smart choices can prevent it. It's much better that Antioch administrators solve the

date rape problem with true university spirit — make more rules.

Another nifty facet of the 13-page policy is that it's against the rules to have sex while intoxicated. Jane Gross reported that in Hall's speech, "She told them that 'consent is not meaningful if it is given while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and thus it is against the rules to have sex with someone who is inebriated.'"

I'm not trying to make light of any woman's experience with sexual assault. Rape is a horrible, horrible experience. It is the responsibility of higher education to address the issue and apply solutions to the problem of rape on campus.

But making rules that are not only ludicrous and dictatorial, but also impossible to enforce, is not the way to encourage solutions.

Lia Saliccia is a columnist for the Emerald.

LETTERS

Speaking out

The gay movement has prompted a number of hearings in which the so-called positive aspects of homosexuality have been addressed. What is the gay movement other than creative non-violence being used to make a negative into a positive?

In keeping with this creative non-violent approach, I propose that the U.S. Senate and the Joint Chiefs of Staff hear me speak on "Homosexuality: the Bane of Society." I will speak on the unspoken so-called positive aspects of homosexuality. Does "bane" sound bad? That's good because "good is bad and bad is good" (Isaiah 5:20).

I really want to clarify this issue and do gays a favor. They're sweet people. They are!

Ask them; they'll tell you themselves. Who can oppose them?

I have news for the lesbian and bisexual women who march to "take back the night." You already live in darkness. You are part of the problem.

Not only have you subtly swayed the women's movement to embrace the gay agenda, but a lot of you have also worked from the "closet." It's so much easier to bring heterosexual women to

embrace the gay agenda when you pose as a heterosexual yourself, isn't it?

Well, your time is up! As a servant of the Lord, my job is to say "to those in the darkness, 'reveal yourselves!'" (Isaiah 49:9). Of course that should be no problem. You are such sweet people. Who can oppose you?

Bobby Meade
Washington, D.C.

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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.

Managing Editor	Calley Anderson	Editor-in-Chief	Jake Berg	Sports Editor	Steve Mims
Editorial Editor	David Thorn	Editorial Editor	Jeff Pickhardt	Photo Editor	Anthony Forney
Graphics Editor	Jeff Paslay	Photo Editor	Anthony Forney	Supplements Editor	Kaly Soto
Freelance Editor	Thor Wasbotten	Supplements Editor	Kaly Soto	Night Editor	Steve Mims

Associate Editors: Scot Clemens, *Student Government/Activities*; Rebecca Merritt, *Community*; Rivers Janssen, *Higher Education/Administration*

News Staff: Dave Charbonneau, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Malia Fields, Martin Fisher, Leslie Galliano, Sarah Henderson, Arik Hesselidahl, Edward Klipfenstein, Yin Leng Leong, Trista Noel, Elizabeth Reenstjerna, Lia Saliccia, Scott Simonson, Stephanie Sisson, Susanne Steffens, Julie Swensen, Michele Thompson-Aguilar, Kevin Tripp, Amy Van Tuyt, Daniel West

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross
Advertising: Frelime Bell, Teresa Isabelle, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Van V. O'Bryan II, Rachael Trull, Kelsey Wekell, Angie Windheim
Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager: Victor Mejia, Sim Tze Teck
Distribution: Brandon Anderson, Graham Simpson, Ed Talmadge
Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor: Judy Connolly
Production: Dee McCobb, *Production Coordinator*; Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvigit, Clayton Yee
Newsroom: 346-5511 **Display Advertising:** 346-3712
Business Office: 346-5512 **Classified Advertising:** 346-4343