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City cuts funds for Celebration

Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene City Council passed a budget recommendation Monday to fund additional fire operations.

The budget calls for the reduction of city support for Eugene Celebration, the elimination of support for the Sister Cities program and other community services.

The money raised from the cuts will increase staffing at the Agate Street Fire Station and open an additional fire station, already built, on Bailey Hill Road. The budget was approved by a 6-2 margin.

There were two amendments made to the original budget. The original budget would've phased out about \$100,000 from both the Celebration and the Sister Cities programs over a four-year period with the largest cuts happening in the first year of the phase.

The first amendment suggested that the phase-out of support for the Eugene Celebration be extended to five years and a \$10,000 reduction in funds the first year, cutting the initial amount for the cut in half.

Supporters of the amendment said this would help to ease the transition for the Eugene Celebra-

tion. But the amendment didn't pass without some disagreement from other Council members.

"I don't agree with this amendment. I believe that this is only going to cause problems in the future because of the lack of financial support in the first few years of the phase-out program," Council member Jim Torrey said.

The second amendment extended the phase-out program for the Sister Cities program also to five years and lowered its initial reduction. The Sister Cities program promotes cultural and educational exchange with Eugene's sister cities.

"This amendment will allow the Sister Cities program to look for support from other agencies in the community that have a direct interest in the program, such as the 4-J and Bethel school districts," Council Vice President Nancy Nathanson said in proposing the amendment.

The Council provided an open microphone for the comments. Several individuals came forth in opposition to the budget cuts, speaking of the value of all the programs and the loss that the public would face if the city reduced its funding for them.

Some Council members suggested that the budget cuts could be only temporary.

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Work-a-thon proceeds to aid El Salvador

Jean M. Bond
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Committee In Solidarity with the Central American People will conduct its fourth annual "Work-a-thon from Eugene to El Salvador: Building People's Power" on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CISCAP works to educate the local community about the political and social situations in Central America, Cuba and Mexico, to stop U.S. intervention in those countries, and to raise money for organizations working for peace in those countries.

This year volunteers will work on programs for St. Vincent de Paul and the Feminist Women's Health Center as they raise money for the Melida Anaya Montes Women's Movement, and for cleanup and reforestation in Nejapa, El Salvador.

Volunteers working with St. Vincent de Paul will help renovate four condemned houses for purchase by low-income families. St. Vincent de Paul will eventually rehabilitate 11 houses for low-income ownership through its Hope III Project. Proceeds from the sale of the homes will be used to purchase more houses for future renovation. CISCAP volunteers will be painting, taking out old flooring,

cleaning, building fences, planting trees and landscaping.

The Feminist Women's Health Center provides pregnancy testing and counseling; "well-woman" gynecological care and birth control services to women at a reasonable cost. It is the only non-profit women's clinic in Oregon that is owned and operated by women. Volunteers will clean and paint examining rooms at the center on Saturday.

Half of the work-a-thon proceeds will go to environmental projects in the municipality of Nejapa, just outside San Salvador. El Salvador's ecosystem is considered to be the second worst in the Western Hemisphere (Haiti's is the worst), and Nejapa's environmental problems are among the worst in the country. CISCAP will fund a project to reforest the river area to preserve the water table.

The rest of the funds raised on Saturday will go to the Social Assistance Program for Women, which is being developed by the Melida Anaya Montes Women's Movement.

The movement provides education on the oppression and marginalization of women and works toward changing that oppression. Its social assistance

program will provide legal, medical and counseling services for women who are victims of domestic violence.

About 80 people have participated each year in past work-a-thons, with each volunteer bringing in an average of \$60 in pledge money. According to Foncy Prescott, CISCAP staffer, CISCAP has exceeded its material aid goals in the past three years of the work-a-thon.

This year's goal is to have \$5,000, after expenses, to send as material aid to the projects in El Salvador.

CISCAP offers pledge incentives each year. This year participants who bring in \$150 or more in pledge money are entered in a raffle for a new commuter bike, which was donated by Paul's Bike Shop. Everyone bringing in \$50 or more receives a CISCAP work-a-thon T-shirt.

"This is a really fun event that gives people a chance to get out and do something for the community," Prescott said.

Child care and translation services will be provided for volunteers who need them. To register for the work-a-thon, or for more information, call CISCAP at 485-8633.

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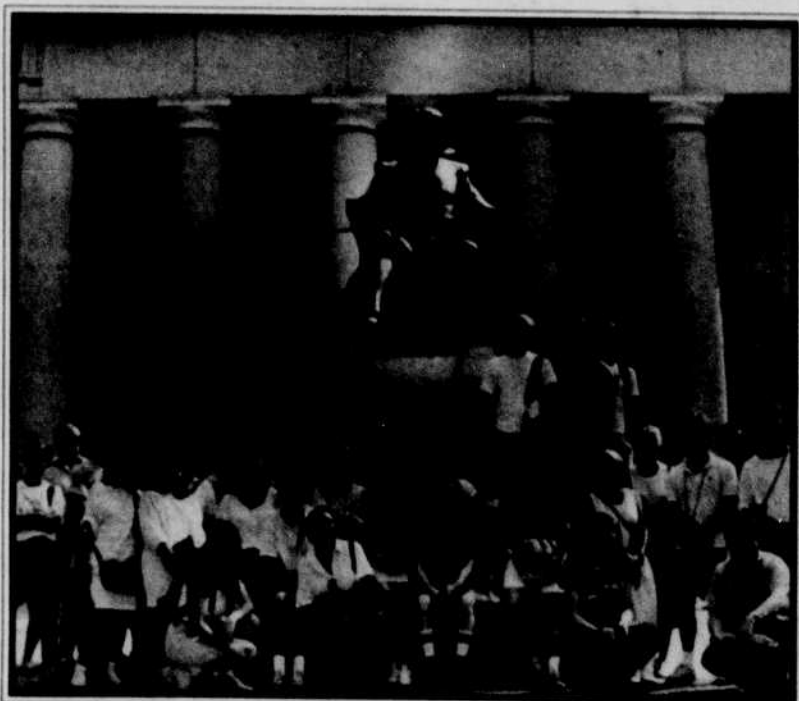


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