

Big dreams for Eugene?

OUR OPINION: *The City Council's goals for Eugene leave more questions than answers*

What will Eugene look like in five years? That's what the Eugene City Council tried to decide when it made its list of goals for the city last week. Led by Mayor Jim Torrey, the City Council outlined what it would try and focus on in the next five years. So here they are from top to bottom, the nine goals for the Eugene of 2002.

Goal One: *Provide a community where people feel safe, secure and respected.*

Is this opposed to last year's goal of a community where people feel endangered, uncertain and disrespected? Does a goal as obvious as this really need to be stated?

Goal Two: *Encourage a beautiful living environment with green spaces, and preserve natural resources.*

This is probably the safest goal of the bunch. In a city where every weather forecast shows a chance of rain, how ambitious is a goal that encourages green spaces? Let's face it, Eugene will be green regardless of what the City Council does.

Goal Three: *Expand affordable housing opportunities.*

Probably the most specific of all the goals. This is definitely a goal worthy of support, but just how does the Council plan on achieving it? It sounds like a great goal, but Eugene could better use a great plan.

Goal Four: *Manage city growth and change.*

Because the City Council couldn't decide whether to encourage or discourage city growth, they decided to go with the all-purpose word "manage." "Manage city growth" has a nice ring to it, but does it mean anything? Like many of these goals, it's hard to tell.

Goal Five: *Maintain the financial capability to provide city services.*

Translation: Keep collecting taxes so the city doesn't fall apart.

Goal Six: *Foster intergovernmental cooperation.*

Does this mean no fist fights between Torrey and Gov. Kitzhaber?

Goal Seven: *Provide opportunities for educational, leisure, sports and cultural amenities for all citizens.*

And how are these opportunities going to be provided? More park benches and basketball courts? More time should be spent figuring out how to accomplish these

goals and less time put into coming up with fancy words like "amenities."

Goal Eight: *Develop an environmentally friendly alternative transportation system*

An environmentally friendly alternative transportation system could mean a light rail train. But with no current plans for construction this could be a little unrealistic for 2002. Unless the City Council has secretly invented a solar powered car, LTD bus drivers needn't worry about their jobs yet.

Goal Nine: *Foster a community of neighborhoods.*

The Council seems pretty big on fostering this year. Because you can't really have a city without neighborhoods and neighborhoods imply a community, fostering them should be within the council's grasp.

Goals are great, but plans are better. If the City Council really has plans to accomplish these goals, more power to them. We just hope there is more to the future of Eugene than a bunch of goal statements that range from the ultra-vague to the super-obvious.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.

Winners

Rodney Dangerfield

After all but disappearing from the acting scene, Rodney is back in full force. From guest appearances on the Simpsons and Letterman to a new movie entitled "Meet Wally Sparks," Rodney's career may be mounting a much-needed comeback.



George Lucas

The re-release of the Star Wars trilogy has put Lucas back in the spotlight. With crowds camping out to buy tickets for Star Wars, Lucas stands to gain both fame and fortune — again.

Rich Brooks

After the former Duck football coach was fired by the St. Louis Rams after only two seasons, his NFL career seemed to have hit a brick wall. But with the Atlanta Falcons hiring Brooks as defensive coordinator, Brooks can look forward to another chance at NFL glory.

Lance Alstodt

The investment banker won \$1 million for kicking a 35-yard field goal at the NFL Pro Bowl on Sunday. Alstodt won a nationwide contest sending him to Hawaii to try to win the \$1 million.

Boris Yeltsin

Boris Yeltsin's recovery from pneumonia and heart surgery may be quicker than many people think. French President Jacques Chirac claimed after talking with Yeltsin for three hours that the Russian president appeared to be in top shape.

Losers

PFC Senator Sari Wisch

The constitution court put an injunction against Wisch from participating in the Multicultural Center budget hearing process. No ruling is expected on her removal from office for one week.

The media

The trial is over and the Juice was found liable in the wrongful death of Nicole Brown-Simpson and Ron Goldman. Thousands of reporters will soon be out of work. Oh, the humanity!

Bill Parcells

Despite his desire to leave New England for another team, the Patriots head coach was told by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue that he can't leave without the permission of the Patriots organization. This a little over a week after the Patriots lost the Super Bowl to the Green Bay Packers.

University Computing Center

As of Feb. 15, the University will stop selling computers at discount prices to students due to shrinking profits. In addition to making it harder for students to get good deals on computers, 18 employees at the Computing Center will be put out of work.

The Drawing Board



LETTERS

Keep fan perspective

Many of you may have heard news about an incident reported by a member of the UCLA Bruins men's basketball team following Thursday night's game at MacArthur Court. The player reported that, in the excitement of the Duck's win when fans converged upon the floor, racial epithets were shouted at Bruin players.

I hope this is not true. It is one thing to have enthusiastic and loyal fans who celebrate their team at a time of victory. It is quite another thing to have behavior that brings dishonor to the team, our institution and our community.

There is no circumstance under which racist behavior is defensible, nor will it be excused or tolerated among those who are a part of the University community and among those who wish to associate with us. I call upon our fans to exercise self-discipline and peer scrutiny to ensure this behavior is never repeated.

Dave Frohnmayr
University President

Cross should stay

This is in response to your Jan. 21 article on the Skinner Butte cross.

In many cases, the cross is a religious symbol, based on the Christian faith and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. When this cross was erected, it was based on a religious commemoration to the founding father of the Christian religion. In this specific instance, the cross was made a religious item on public land. Since that time, however, the situation changed.

In the 1970s, a decision was made to use the cross as a war memorial. This "adop-

tion" bridged a gap between church and state that should have made most people happy. The cross is no longer a religious monument; instead, it has been made to show our support to those who fought in wars. When the 1992 lawsuit was filed, it wasn't against a monument that was exclaiming its religion. It was against a monument that supported our soldiers.

The cross is only a symbol of religion; it is not a religion. When crosses are placed alongside of road ways for those who died, do we see this much of an uproar because of them?

I don't agree with the decision to pull the cross down. In this day and age we are so unsure about political correctness that we wipe out things that added to our history. The cross is a cross. Nothing more, nothing less.

Stephanie Jacobs
Eugene