

# Protest

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equate violence and sex, it's lethal and it's dangerous, and it affects me personally."

Bijou owner Michael Lamont met with the protesters several times during the hour-long event and even offered protesters free tickets to the movie and seats in the balcony, so that the group could make a more informed protest. The protesters turned down the offer.

Lamont also handed out a flier that described Eugene's history with sexually explicit shows. His typed handout mentioned the now-closed Cinema 7 screening "Behind the Green Door" every Friday and Saturday nights "to large audiences for several years straight. Cinema 7 was also very much supported by Eugene's film-loving alternative community."

The leaflet then responded directly to the protesters' complaints.

"I do regret that 'Disco Dolls in 3-D' contains what has been de-

scribed to me as a rape/murder scene — that one filmgoer described as 'just too absurd to be taken seriously.' The perpetrator does get his penis bitten off later in the film. Seems fair."

For the most part, the interaction between protesters and moviegoers remained peaceful and seemed to offer constructive dialoguing. One incident, however, crossed the verbal line into a physical one when a car full of men slowed down in front of the Bijou and tossed five or six pornographic magazines at the protesters' feet.

"That's obviously very rude and stupid," Lamont commented, upon hearing about the deed. Lamont added that he supports the protesters' right — even on the Bijou's private property — to hold a demonstration.

A few people heading into the theater dismissed the idea that the protest was effective.

"This is Eugene, everybody [protests] something," University student Melissa Carlson said, as she entered the Bijou with her friend, student Jennifer Smith.

"Everybody's 'Oh no, not this.' We saw [the movie advertised] in the paper, saw it was in 3-D and we were cracking up about it, so we decided that we wanted to go see it."

Smith expressed some concern about the scene in question but summed up the issue as a societal problem, not a cinematic one.

"I'm not going to enjoy watching the rape scenes, but it happens and I don't agree with it, but that's life," Smith said. "We're just curious about the movie, so we thought we'd come and see just what it's all about."

One male protester, Ari Dennison, criticized that sort of opinion. Dennison said he thinks people are influenced too heavily by media images and allow pornography to thrive without serious debate.

"I think that their obedience to media hype is no less arrogant than it is just simply pathetic," he said. "If you walk away from something as obviously threatening as this movie and don't even consider it, that's outrageous to say the least."

One person who disagreed with the demonstrators saw the movie earlier in the week with a group of 10 people, evenly split with five men and five women. Shawn Baird said that none of the women in his contingent found the debated scene offensive.

When informed that another recent Bijou movie, "Xiu Xiu," which is the story of a city girl's re-education during China's Cultural Revolution, contained two rape scenes, Baird drew his own parallels.

"The rapes in ['Xiu Xiu'] help add a level of reality to what happened to these women, so of course you can't take it out of the movie," he said. "But then when you make a movie where that particular act is now seen as funny, [the protesters] see that as perpetuating future moments of violence from men on women."

"What causes people to rape each other is not a movie like ['Disco Dolls']. It's something way deeper than that."

Despite the controversy, Lamont said he does not regret bringing "Disco Dolls" to the Bijou. He

said he does have regrets that some people in the community are disturbed and offended by the showing. From a business standpoint, Lamont has seen new faces at his theater to view the 3-D movie, and he hopes they see the Bijou as more than a "porn" theater.

"Maybe they'll put the Bijou on their menu of entertainment choices, and they'll actually come see some obviously more worthy cultural films," he said.

For at least one protester, however, the damage caused goes beyond a film-watching experience.

"I'm tired of being scared when I walk down the street, and I'm tired of violence against women and sexual images of women being plastered all over our screens," University graduate Sarah Bastida said.

"Having a 10-month-old son, I want to show him that it's not OK. I want to show people in our society and the community that my child is going to grow up in that I don't accept that mentality."

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# Scams

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cious activity. The more reported cases police receive from the same suspect, the better chance there is of sending the criminal to jail.

"Courts usually want a lot of money taken before they convict for check fraud," Ellis said. "If we catch this guy and we have a lot of reports, the suspect is more likely to get jail time for the offenses."

Ellis said the most important thing people can do to keep from getting taken advantage of is to be suspicious of unwarranted offers.

"If it's too good to be true, it probably is," Ellis said.

## Tips to avoid check and credit fraud:

**Always keep** your checkbook with you.

**Never give** your account number over the phone if you didn't place the call.

**Don't be** afraid to report suspicious activity.

**Always get** identification from someone who is buying something from you with a check.

**Be suspicious** of anyone offering money to cash his or her check.

SOURCE: Eugene Police

# Higher Ed Briefs

## Hearing to explore extending employee benefits

A public hearing Tuesday will debate whether to extend University tuition benefits to same-sex domestic partners of employees. Currently, tuition benefits are extended to employees' spouses.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 121 of Susan Campbell Hall. Inclusion of tuition

breaks for same-sex partners would embrace a 1998 Oregon Court of Appeals decision, which ruled that denying benefits to same-sex partners, which are granted to married employees, was against Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon State Constitution.

Results of this hearing will be presented before the Oregon State Board of Higher Education on Oct. 21. Action is expected on the same day, after which the ruling will be handed to the Secretary of State's office to implement.

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