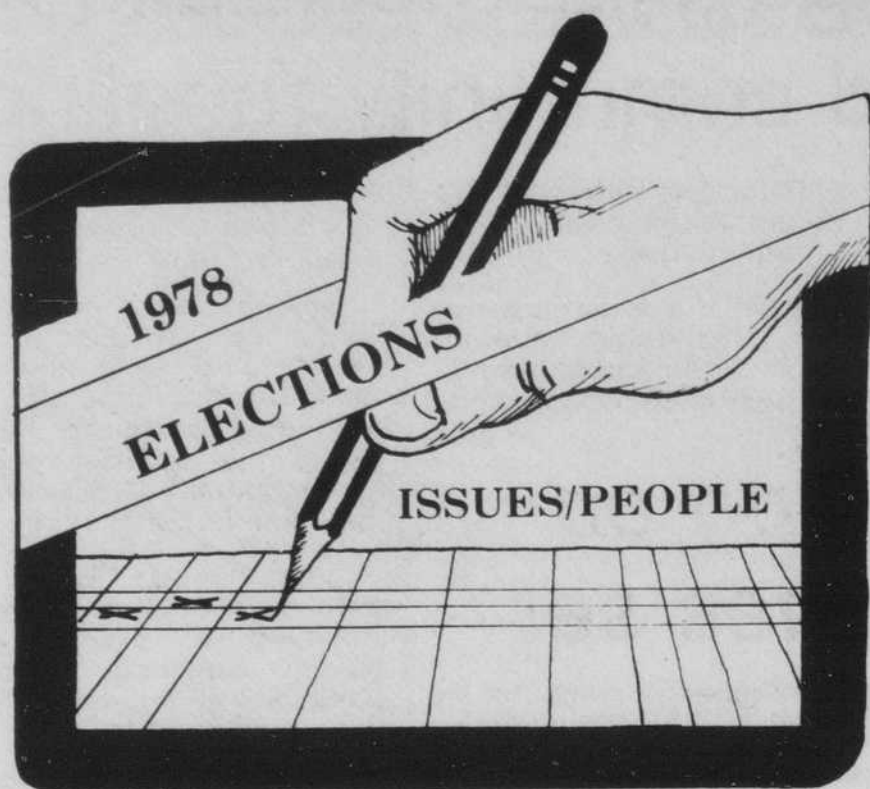




Gay pros and foes rally for spring amendment fight

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

Gay supporters and opponents are assembling their forces and campaign strategies for the May 23 election when city voters will be asked to decide if Eugene should retain its "gay rights" amendment.

Measure No. 51 is the result of efforts by anti-gay forces to repeal the city's ordinance which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The amendment was added to the city's human rights ordinance by the Eugene City Council last

November. Efforts in early December by the anti-gay Volunteer Organization Involved in Community Enactments (VOICE) put the issue on the May ballot.

VOICE is "definitely planning" a spring campaign, according to Maureen Geiber, a spokesperson for the group. She declined to say when the campaign would get under way.

"We're doing everything as quietly as possible because this is such an explosive issue," Geiber says. As part of the campaign strategy, Geiber says the group will "react to the opposition."

Carol Queen, chair of the Gay People's Alliance (GPA) on campus, says the pro-gay forces would

lead a "mostly educational" campaign. She says the campaign is designed to bring gay people in contact with people who have never directly encountered gays before. She says gays would like to reach those people who might be voting "out of prejudices or beliefs that they have no idea might be false."

GPA will soon have voter registration tables in the EMU lobby in an effort to get people to vote.

"Campus is not going to be a paradise as far as a voting block," Queen says. "But it will probably be less vehement here."

Queen says she has a "positive attitude" about the election.

"I know what our opposition is," Queen says. "It's a strong opposition. We have certain strengths as well, however, and we will be utilizing those strengths to their fullest."

Queen says if the gays should lose, "There's a legislative session next year and we'll be there."

Confusion may arise over the wording of the issue on the ballot. A "yes" vote will repeal the gay rights amendment, and a "no" vote will keep it in the human rights ordinance.

"We'll let them (the voters) know what a yes vote means," Geiber said. She says her group was hoping for a 5-1 vote to repeal the ordinance.

"There is no chance of us losing. The votes are there, we'll just be telling the people whether to vote yes or no," Geiber says.

Four seats up for grabs in primary

By LIZ BUTCHER
Of the Emerald

Four Eugene City Council positions will be up for grabs in the May 23 primary, and so far seven local candidates have put in their bids.

There are three contenders for Ward 1, two for Ward 4, and one each — both incumbents — for Wards 5 and 6.

The Ward 1 position, presently held by Raymond Bradley, is being sought by Robert Lyford, Emily Schue, and Jim Johnston.

Lyford, president of Bob Lyford Electric, Inc., a local firm, has lived

in Eugene 28 years, raised a family here, and is now in business with his son and son-in-law.

Asserting "no one has the perfect answer," Lyford says he is running because he is interested in the future of the area and feels the need to ensure "good housing, jobs and living conditions."

Schue, a homemaker and "professional volunteer," has been involved with local civic affairs for some time. She has served on several local governmental bodies and is active in the League of Women Voters. Presently she is a citizen member of the City of

Eugene Joint Housing Committee.

"I would like to be on the other side of the table making decisions rather than just influencing them," she says.

Johnston, the third contender for Ward 1, is the Drafting Supervisor for the University Physical Plant. A native Eugenean, Johnston has a masters degree in urban and regional planning which he is putting to use as chair of the Crest Drive neighborhood association.

Currently, in his role at the Physical Plant, Johnston is developing a background in energy conserva-

tion as these principles are increasingly applied to University remodeling projects.

Johnston sees a need for constructive planning in both a narrow perspective — dealing with local social and economic concerns — and a wider concern of regional air pollution.

"I would like to reduce existing adversary roles... by involving citizens early in governmental planning. I'd like to see planning take place from 'the bottom up,'" he added.

Ward 4, currently held by Tom

(Continued on Page 9)

THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER WILL BE CLOSED

Friday, March 17 at 11:00 PM and will reopen on Sunday
March 26 at 3:00 PM

LTD tax-hike goes up for vote

After nearly eight years of study, Lane County voters who live in Lane Transit District (LTD) Service area will get a chance to vote on a personal income tax levy which is needed to bring the service up to proposed T-2000 standards.

The tax, which will be on the May 24 ballot presented to LTD service area residents, will give

bus service "greater flexibility" to meet the proposed transportation plan standards, says Phyllis Loobey, LTD's director of administrative services.

Under the present tax, a payroll tax paid by businesses and corporations with LTD boundaries, the service would be unable to meet the transportation standards set for the Eugene-Springfield area.

That tax has been fully utilized to date to pay for the service's maintenance and expansion, Loobey says.

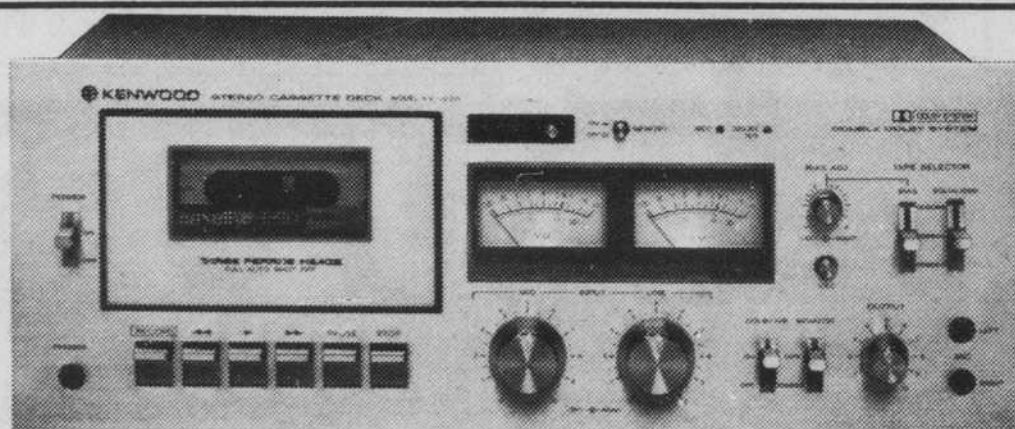
"By 1980 or 1981, given the T-2000 plan and the proposed transit service that will be in operation at that time, and our attempts to phase in the service acquisitions needed by then, the new tax measure will give us greater flexibility to meet the costs," she says.

The proposed tax measure will, if approved, tax the personal income of residents living within the LTD service area by .44 of one percent, Loobey says.

The present payroll tax rate is set at \$54 per - 10,000 of annual payroll. If approved, the income tax would lower that rate to nearly \$16 per \$10,000.

The personal income tax has been studied as a way to increase LTD's tax base since the service's beginning in 1970, Loobey says.

If passed, the new income tax will go into effect Jan. 1, 1979.



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