

# Debate continues over closing streets on mall

After arguing over misspellings, title changes, council approves measure about closure to go before voters

By Don Peters  
Emerald Associate Editor

The saga of the downtown mall continued Wednesday as the Eugene City Council amended a proposed ballot measure that would close off parts of Willamette and Broadway streets.

The measure, which does not yet have a number, is another in a series of charter amendments trying to fix the vehicle overcrowding problem in the downtown area. Proposed by Donald Zadoff of the Save Willamette Street/Broadway Mall Committee, the measure has raised much confusion and controversy during its short life.

Zadoff submitted the petition Sept. 18, said Eugene city attorney William Gray. There was a typographical error in the measure, which Zadoff corrected a week later.

After the error was fixed, Gene Swan and Mike Schwartz, two opponents of the petition, appealed the ballot title, saying it did not accurately reflect the true nature of the measure.

Gray, who gave the ballot measure its title, said the error in the wording made it difficult to write a title which reflected the true nature of the measure.

"My responsibility is to accurately reflect what the ballot says," Gray said. "Sometimes it's difficult to figure out what the consequences (of the measure) might be."

First Interstate Bank, located at 99 E. Broadway, is one of the leading opponents to the fledgling measure. Schwartz, arguing the case in front of the council, said the measure, if passed, would have a negative effect on the bank.

would close the bank's drive-through window, devalue its property and close access to its underground parking structure.

Supporters of the measure argued the title was not misleading and that the measure would not interfere with traffic flow.

"(Opponents) are attempting to find a problem where there is none," said Doug DuPriest, speaking on behalf of Zadoff. "It's our position that they have misread the ballot. The language is not misleading. This measure would keep closed what is closed and not close any more."

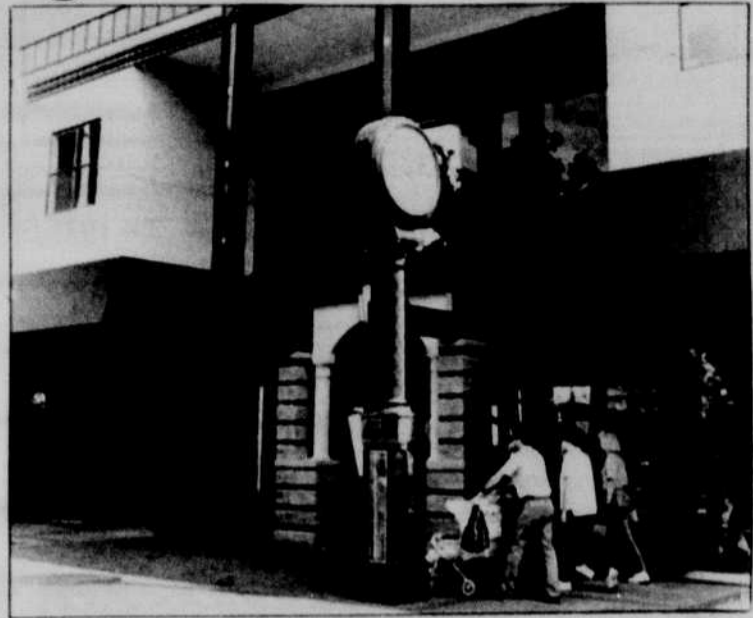
Gray said the ambiguity in the petition could lead to confusion on the part of voters.

"I've read the measure, and

credible arguments can be made on both sides," he said. "The voters will have to decide. My obligation is to make a title that reflects the ambiguity of the measure itself."

Council member Roger Rutan motioned to reword the ballot explanation to try and clean up some of the confusion. That was passed 6-0. Council member Freeman Holmer then motioned to change to ballot title to "Requires public vote for additional vehicle access on downtown mall."

The vote ended in a 3-3 tie, but Mayor Jeff Miller broke the deadlock by voting in favor of the motion. The two amendments were then combined and adopted on a 4-2 vote.



File photo

The most recent ballot measure concerning Eugene's downtown mall would close parts of Willamette and Broadway.

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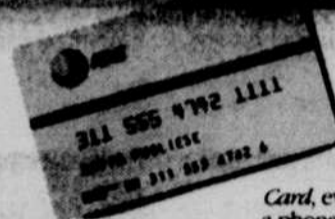
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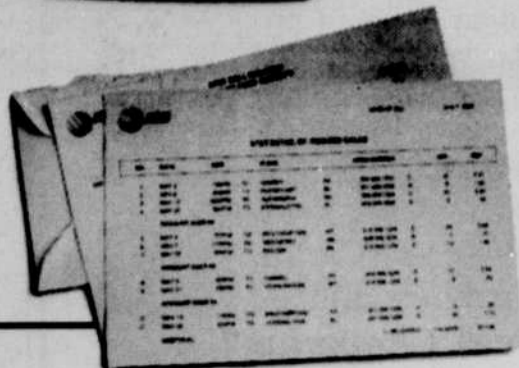
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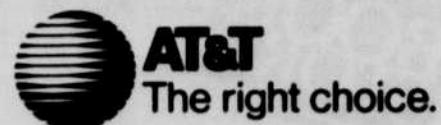
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## BOOKSTORE

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important," Williams said. "(But) that is an expensive process, and so we have to be able to pay for the improvements that we do make."

Williams said the bookstore gave about \$639,000 in discounts to students last year. That amount will drop by about \$120,000 this year, giving the bookstore more capital to pay for installation of the new equipment.

The board of directors voted in January to purchase the new system, and later voted to drop the discount rate to help offset installation costs, Williams said.

He said the discount will probably increase again once the new system is completely on-line in July.

"We're incurring a kind of special cost associated with the transition from old to new," Williams said. "(The reduction) is really a management decision. We cannot operate at a loss."

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