

# COMMUNITY



Photo by Sean Poston

Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller explained the city's goals with the help of a sign-language interpreter to a Hult Center audience Monday night, expressing concern over the effects of Ballot Measure 5.

## Miller describes Eugene's goals

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Reporter

Facing the financial shortcomings created by the passage of Ballot Measure 5 will be the greatest challenge of city government in 1991, said Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller Monday night.

Miller, who presided over a city council meeting at the Hult Center's Soren Theater, gave a summary of issues facing Eugene in the coming year during his third annual state of the city address.

Miller said the broad issue of funding city services and increasing service levels to meet demand revolves wholly around Eugene's reaction to measure 5.

"The choices we make now will have a significant influence on future generations," he said.

Although Miller conceded that the state's property tax structure needed revamping, he said the passage of Measure 5 will mean losses in city revenues in excess of \$5 million, reduced funding options and less local government control.

Miller said Eugene faces several goals for 1991, and funding them will be the primary barrier.

The city council's goals include the approval of a new library site in the former Sears building downtown, voter approval of a more accessible downtown design, more police coverage, improved fire and ambulance response time and continued maintenance of the city's infrastructure.

"We as a city must maintain local control of our way of life and find a progressive tax system to fund our local government," Miller said. "It (Meas-

ure 5) is here. Let us tackle it first hand ourselves and move on."

Eugene also faces the continued issues of economic stability and growth, the creation of jobs in the community, homelessness, low income housing and city development in 1991, Miller said.

er said.

In response to the cutbacks, Miller said the city will hold spending on capital investment and make use of reserve funds until a more long term funding option can be found to maintain city services.

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