

# TO HOMECOMING TREASURE HUNT

Nearby she sits and rest but until she moves on by, she will not find me.

- The Plaque

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# Citizens oppose city gas tax

By Stephanie Sisson

Oregon Daily Emerald

A public hearing on the new stormwater management plan proposal revealed that Eugene residents support much of the plan, but are concerned about a proposed three-cent gasoline tax as a method of funding it.

Service station owners made it clear at the hearing that while they supported the goals and policies of the new program, which has been proposed in response to new federal stormwater regulations, they did not want another tax on gasoline.

"Consumers are already paying huge taxes on gasoline," said Mike Sherlock, owner of the Chevron service station on Broadway. "A local tax is not fair to consumers or to gasoline services."

Robert Newburn, owner of Civic Petroleum Corp., said that a local gas tax would "place Eugene marketers at a serious disadvantage" in competing with service stations in surrounding cities. He said the people of Eugene are already paying a 24-cent state tax and an 18.4-cent federal tax.

The city council is considering a gas tax to help pay for the stormwater proposal because, according to a stormwater fact sheet published by the city, the tax charges those "responsible for street-related costs ... and helps street users see the rela-

tionship between their travel choices and the fee."

A gasoline tax is only part of the city council's plan for funding the new stormwater program. The city also wants to change the way it charges home and business owners for stormwater costs.

Water meter size, the current billing method, is not an accurate measurement of a property's impact on the stormwater system, according to the stormwater fact sheet. Instead, the city is proposing to charge a stormwater fee according to impervious, or hard, surface areas such as rooftops, parking lots and patios. Pollutants collected by the runoff ultimately go into local rivers, streams and wetlands.

In November 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency published new regulations concerning the discharge of polluted stormwater into "waters of the United States." The new regulations require that cities with populations greater than 100,000, such as Eugene, obtain permits to expel stormwater into U.S. water, which includes the Amazon Creek and the Willamette River.

Eugene's Draft Stormwater Management Plan is a proposal for meeting these new requirements and for financing the program.

"You do yourselves damage when you consider a gas tax to pay for a stormwater system," Jim Hale, of Eugene, told the city council. "Let's save the gas tax for more important purposes."

## JOURNAL

Continued from Page 5A

"It's funny," Green said, "that they don't think that the destruction of millions of acres of forest as being a terrorist act — that's good business."

Dawn said she was the victim of violence perpetrated by loggers

while the police looked the other way. But rather than focus on those issues, the journal aims to "focus on actions and issues rather than abuse."

And issues abound in the journal. The September issue includes headlines ranging from "Earth Liberation Front Ignites Britain" to "Mexican Sea Turtles

in Trouble."

Although Missoula, Mont., the most recent home of the journal before the Eugene move, was considered by the editors an alternative community for Montana, they seem happy to be in Eugene.

"I think Eugene will be conducive to our well-being," Dawn said.

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Oregon Daily Emerald

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HELP! For school project. Will pay a devout Hindu to teach me about your faith. Please call Eric at 485-6845. Leave message. Thank you.

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

