



What do you think about the Craig Berkman and Denny Smith campaign?

"I'm tired of the dirty campaign going back and forth. They are only hurting themselves."



— **JOHN GARLING**
undeclared, junior

"I don't really know much about it. I'm more concerned with graduating."



— **KEN PLATT**
marketing, senior

"It's a bunch of crap."



— **DEAN ALTENHOFEN**
psychology, senior

"It seems like they are just capitalistic."



— **KRIS KOONTZ**
biology, senior

"I just moved up from California, so I know nothing about it."



— **STEVE DANIELS**
ceramics

"It seems like it's a lot of unnecessary attacking going on."

— **ELLEN KEITHLEY**
anthropology, freshman

"To be totally honest, I don't know anything about it."

— **SARAH LEAHY**
journalism, freshman

Bond would fund services, maintenance

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene voters will decide Tuesday whether they want to fund a new library, open Bailey Hill Fire Station and pay for city building maintenance with a \$56.2 million general obligation bond.

The measure comes more than three years after voters approved the purchase of the old Sears building, located at West 10th Avenue and Charnelton Street, for a new library.

"Eugene has needed a new library for a long time," said Emily Schue, co-chairwoman of the Coalition for Eugene. "The voters chose the Sears site by a 70 percent majority."

However, opponents of the measure say a new library could be funded without a tax increase. With interest calculated, the measure actually is a \$73 million bond, said Bill Mason, treasurer of the No Unfair Tax Scheme Committee.

Mason said it is not fair for the city to lump the library with maintenance costs. The city, he said, is using the library to make up for past deficits.

"It's an easy way out for the political agenda of our city government," Mason said. "This is a credit card method."

Mason said his group isn't opposed to a new library, but is against the Sears site because it is old and has no public parking. He suggests expanding the existing library on East 13th Avenue and Olive Street.

"The old library could be refurbished. It's a preferred location," he said.

The Sears building would be a 100,000 square-foot library, while the current library building is 37,000 square feet. Schue said the library is circulating six times as many books than when it first opened in 1959. Officials have discussed the possibility of a new library since 1984.

The bond, which would tax every \$1,000 of assessed property about 75 cents a month would cover \$19.07 million in construction and equipment costs for the library. An additional \$800,000 would pay for the remodeling and enlargement of the Bailey Hill Fire Station and \$34.56 million would fund maintenance of city buildings, including fire sta-



MICHAEL SHINDLER/Emerald

Eugene voters will decide whether they want to move the Eugene Public Library.

BALLOT MEASURE 20-09

TITLE: General obligation bonds for new library, emergency equipment and facility repair

QUESTION: Shall Eugene issue \$56,207,287 general obligation bonds for new library and emergency response equipment and repair of city-owned facilities? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Section 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

tions, community centers swimming pools, athletic fields and parks.

If the measure passes, funds the city has budgeted for building maintenance would be used for library and fire station operating costs and for community policing.

"These are all things we need to do," Schue said. "There's a good reason for having them lumped together."

The library would occupy the first two floors of the Sears building. City offices

would occupy the third floor until additional library space is needed.

Librarian Carol Hildebrand said additional space in the new library would be used for study and reading areas. Many residents have stopped using the library because they say it is too noisy and crowded, Hildebrand said. Library usage could increase by 50 percent at the Sears building, she said.

Schue said a number of city organizations have endorsed the bond measure, including the 4-J School District, Eugene Chamber of Commerce, Eugene Education Association and the League of Women Voters. About \$20,000 was donated for campaign efforts.

However, Mason said a surprising number of people are against the measure.

"The council has refused to accept there's been opposition," he said. "We have had high financial support from many business people."

If the measure fails, Mason said he would be willing to work with council members to find alternative solutions.

Transfer tax aims to balance Lane County budget

By Stephanie Sisson
Oregon Daily Emerald

A proposed real estate transfer tax is a godsend to some, and a seriously flawed money-sucker to others.

On Tuesday, Lane County will vote on a tax designed to balance the county budget and keep law enforcement and human services from being cut.

The .35 percent tax would be imposed whenever property is sold or transferred from one owner to another. At the proposed rate, a house that sells for \$80,000 would incur a tax of \$280. The tax would be paid by either the seller, the buyer, or by both when the deed is recorded.

Because of declining timber sales in Lane County, the county is facing a \$2.4 million loss of revenue. If the money is not replaced, the county will lose deputies and services.

The biggest argument for the

tax is the fact that the county budget is in trouble. The biggest argument against it is that the tax has no real cap on it. Although the title of the proposition implies that the tax cannot be raised except by a vote of the people, in reality this limitation can be changed at any time if three county commissioners vote to change it.

"We feel like this tax is flawed in so many ways, it can't be justified," said Dave Carlson, a realtor for Prudential.

Opponents of the tax also say the tax would encourage clear-cutting. One of the exceptions to the tax is cut trees, giving landowners an incentive to clear-cut their land before selling it to reduce the value of the land and therefore the tax. The timber would be sold separately at a high price beforehand.

Carlson also pointed out that Washington County enacted a similar tax seven years ago, and

in response to it, the state Legislature imposed a moratorium on any other real estate taxes in the state. The moratorium prevented other taxes from being passed until the 1993 legislative session, when the so-called "sunset clause" expired. This clause ensures that after a certain period of time, the moratorium would either be revisited or expired. The legislature voted in both houses to extend the moratorium, but Gov. Roberts "let it sit on her desk until the legislature was over, then vetoed it," Carlson said. "It was passed in both houses, and she killed it."

In spite of apparent flaws, proponents of the tax, such as school board member Chris Pryor, call it a "reasonable option" to the growing fiscal crisis in Lane County and the threat that human services could be cut. He said the problem of cutting public health and human services is

not just a Lane County problem, but has ramifications that extend to the whole state.

"The problem's just getting worse and worse," he said. "There's a lot of talk, and nobody's doing anything ... What I do not want is to create a whole class of disposable people to save my disposable income."

Jerry Rust, said the county is trying desperately right now to maintain the jail, juvenile services and food and shelter for the homeless.

"For me this is a moment of truth," he said. "We're unfunded, and as a county we need to come together and find a way to pay for these services. We have murder, rape, hunger, homelessness, and we have to come up with a way to pay for these things. We can't pull a rabbit out of a hat."

Candidates differ on what defines county commissioner

By Stephanie Sisson
Oregon Daily Emerald

What defines a Lane County commissioner is the biggest difference between two candidates running for the Springfield position.

Incumbent Steve Cornacchia says a Lane County Commissioner is "an administrator with four others in a \$250 million corporation." As required by the charter of Lane County, Cornacchia says the commissioners decide how to spend the county's money, and also provide policy guidance on the

delivery of services.

However, if he were elected Lane County commissioner, Cornacchia's opponent Bill Morrisette would give commissioners a clearer job description and move from an historically administrative role to that of an active representative.

Currently the mayor of Springfield, Morrisette taught at Springfield High School for more than 28 years and has lived in Lane County since 1960.

"The county commissioners dabble in and interfere with the day-to-day management of the county," Morrisette said. "(I

believe) county commissioners are policy-makers, primarily. Secondly, they work to mediate between the community and bureaucracy."

Morrisette has six years as Springfield mayor under his belt and two years on the city council prior to that. He knows all the Lane County mayors personally through his position as the chairman of the Lane Council of Governments and is acquainted with all the problems these mayors are facing.

"I think I'm more qualified to be county