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Cheers, jeers greet mayor's speech

■ **ADDRESS:** Ruth Bascom gave message of hope, while hecklers booed City Manager Mike Gleason

By Sherry Rainey
Community Editor

A message of hope and cries of discontent were intertwined throughout the 1996 State of the City Address at the Eugene Hilton on Wednesday.

"For me, the reasons of hope explode around me like those wonderful downtown fireworks at midnight on New Year's Eve at Eugene's first First Night," Eugene Mayor Ruth Bascom said.

The mayor gave three main reasons for her bursts of hope in Eugene's city government: a tradition of citizen involvement, the council/manager government structure and a council with agreed-upon goals and focus.

Bascom's message of hope and the theme of the address — citizen participation — didn't seem to reach the ears of certain members of the audience.

The discontent came from the back of the room, as several hecklers criticized awarding Mike Gleason, the departing Eugene city manager, for his service to the city.

The loud calls of "Boo!" echoed throughout the crowded conference room as Bascom handed a plaque of recognition to Gleason, who has only a few days remaining as city manager.

As Bascom commented about Gleason's service to the community, a heckler in the back of the packed room said, "Not my community!"

More distrust surfaced during Bascom's speech, as 10 spectators held up a separate sign in

front of their faces, representing one letter of the phrase, "Listen to us."

After the ceremony, Bascom remarked about the negative tone displayed during the event: "You have to accommodate the mistrust, and let it have a chance to ventilate," she said.

Another person who took the opportunity to "ventilate" during the address was Councilman Kevin Hornbuckle. Each councilor was given three minutes to address an assigned topic.

Hornbuckle said Eugene is lacking in the areas of legal, moral and political accountability, while he praised the group Citizens for Public Accountability.

In the end, almost everyone in the room was recognized by applause for their citizen involvement by either Bascom or one of the councilors.

Videos incriminate pair rapping 'crime pays'

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Two men charged in a string of burglaries boasted that "crime pays in many ways" in a rap video they made with a stolen video camera, police said.

The video was among more than \$30,000 in stolen merchandise police found in an abandoned city-owned apartment where Michael Mungro, 21, and

stranger THAN FICTION

Eric Redfield, 23, were living as squatters, police said Tuesday.

On the video, Mungro and Redfield rap about using drugs and "the law of the streets," police said.

"I'm learning my acting skills," Mungro says to the camera. "I want you to sit back and enjoy the show. Eat some pop-

corn and drink some beverages."

Both were charged with burglary and grand larceny, and were being held at the Niagara County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Police believe they are responsible for a three-week wave of burglaries that hit stores in Erie and Niagara counties. The two were caught last week smashing a store window with a brick and taking more than \$3,000 worth of clothing from a store in the Niagara Factory Outlet Mall, police said.



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