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TODAY

A Eugene mayoral debate will be held at noon at Louie's Village on Franklin Blvd.



INSIDE

Karl Keska is competing in his final year as a long-distance runner for the University

ASUO Pagan Student Union offers a place for pagan students to exchange ideas and beliefs

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WEATHER

Scattered showers. High 60. Low 45.

University of Oregon
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Toxic Right to Know issue is up for debate

■ **BALLOT:** Measure 20-75 is the only Eugene initiative on the ballot this November

By Jean Bond
Community Reporter

Proponents of the Toxic Right to Know initiative say the measure would require Eugene manufacturing companies to report hazardous chemical use, but opponents argue that the measure changes little.

Steven Johnson, a co-founder of the Toxic Right to Know Committee, debated against Jim Dean Chartier, a local businessman and opponent of the measure, Wednesday night in a town hall meeting at the Washington Park Community Center.

Measure 20-75, the only Eugene initiative on the November ballot, would require manufacturing businesses with more than 10 employees to report their hazardous material use if they use or produce more than 2,640 pounds of toxic materials in a year. Each company's annual report would be stored at the Eugene Public Library, where it would be available to the public.

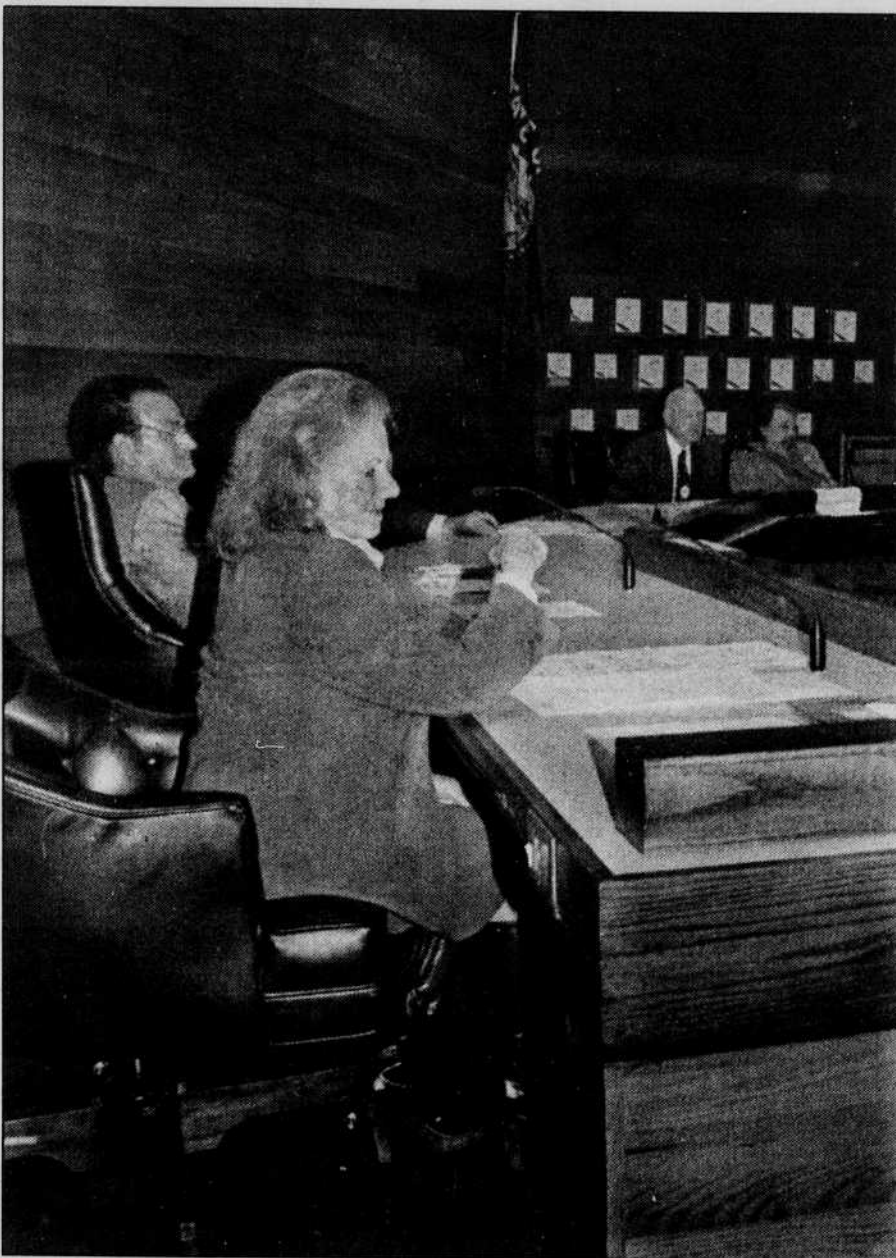
In addition, the measure would require the creation of a seven-member Toxics Board, which would supply forms for reporting, recommend the fee structure to implement the law, file a public report on the law's effectiveness and perform other administrative tasks.

Covered companies would pay an annual fee to cover the city's costs of implementing the measure.

Johnson cited the citizen's right to know about dangerous materials used in their city.

Turn to **BALLOT**, Page 8

Candidates urge national change



The four minor-party candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives for District 4 discuss how they would govern Wednesday night in Harris Hall.

■ **CONGRESS:** Four minor-party candidates discuss changes needed in the government

By Doug Irving
Community Reporter

The government could be very different and far better, four minor-party candidates for the District Four seat to the U.S. House of Representatives said Wednesday night.

Peter DeFazio, the current representative for that district, did not attend the congressional debate, which was sponsored by the Libertarian Party. The Socialist candidate was unable to attend because of a time conflict.

The debate was moderated by Jerry Medler, a political science professor at the University.

Tonie Nathan, the Libertarian candidate, told the audience of about 15 people to vote their feelings. Simply voting for the status quo does nothing to change conditions, she said.

"If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got," she said. "Don't waste your vote. Vote for what you really want."

Nathan said her administration would look at ways to slow the national debt while maintaining services as they currently are.

"I would try to work toward freezing the budget the way it is," she said.

Nathan also voiced support for keeping American troops out of foreign conflicts and removing health care administration from the government.

John Newkirk, the Republican candidate for the position, argued that the current government system was failing.

"We're just mad at the government," he said. "This has to come to a halt."

Turn to **CONGRESS**, Page 8

Discussion group welcomes and supports women of color

■ **MEETING:** Issues affecting women of color are the focus of a gathering sponsored by the Women's Center

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Reporter

Though Sojourner Truth was the first to coin the phrase, "Ain't I a Woman?" this question is now the title of a weekly discussion group for women of color on campus.

Sponsored by the ASUO Women's Center, the group meets on Friday afternoons to discuss an array of issues concerning group members.

Women's Center Director Sho Shigeoka, who helped start the group last year with former director Edwina Welch, facilitates the discussions in this open forum setting.

"We just come in and start talking and leave feeling empowered in an unexplainable way," University student Dee Eason said. "There are no ego trips — we all know

the struggles of women of color on this campus."

Issues discussed at each group meeting are determined by the group members present, and nearly any topic is up for discussion during the hour-and-a-half meetings.

"What is striking is that even with the diverse cultural backgrounds of the women in the group, there is a common bond," Shigeoka said. "The same types of stressors influence each member's life."

Discussion at a meeting may encompass topics such as food, stress, families, hair, discrimination and politics, group members say. New group participants are always welcome, and the laid-back nature of the group is especially inviting — where the women introduce themselves on a first-name basis, providing a setting where there's "no title, no justification, just the person wanting to talk," University student Jasmine Rose said.

In addition, group members stress that women of color are welcome to just sit and listen, without having an obligation to speak.

"We are pulled out of our routines and our other activities to come together with one common bond," University student Carmen Rubio said. "There's no strategizing, we're just women relating to each other."

In conjunction with the annual Women's Health Symposium, the group is inviting women of color to join in the discussion Friday from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Women's Center. The group normally meets at that time in the ASUO Multicultural Center.

Group members express enthusiasm about the existence of the group, and said they hope more women of color drop in for the discussion groups. In addition, members said they appreciate the facilitation skills Shigeoka brings to the setting.

"Sho's counseling background helps us

tackle difficult issues that arise, and she knows of a lot of resources in the campus community — she's a total lifesaver," Rose said.

The group provides an open, helpful forum as well as a relaxed learning environment, member Vikki Nakamura said.

"I come to the meetings to listen a lot and learn," Nakamura said. "Issues come up that we may not discuss with friends, and people in the group listen without judging and offer support."

In addition to the open discussion format, the group provides a unique setting for the women of color involved.

"It's like we own this group, which is a rare feeling and opportunity for women of color currently," Rubio said.

"We want more women of color to know we're here and we're not involved in some sort of agenda. We just support each other," she said.