

Legislators plan for Measure 47

MEETING: Children are the main focus of Oregon lawmakers' efforts this season

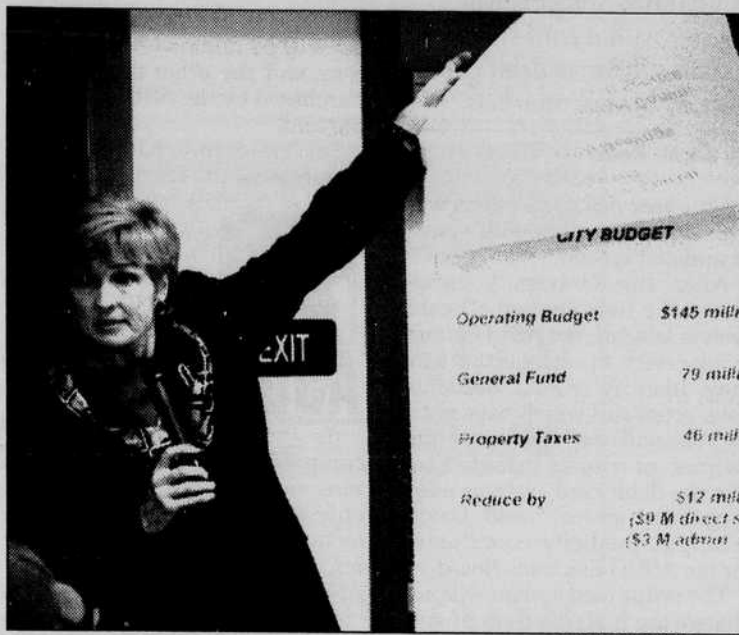
By Ryan Maughn
Community Reporter

In a public meeting at the Hilyard Community Center Senator Susan Castillo, State Representatives Floyd Prozanski and Kitty Piercy, and City Manager Vicki Elmer spoke in an open forum to explain the legislation with which they are presently involved and hear the public's opinions on Measure 47 and other issues.

Senator Castillo, the newest senator to be appointed, discussed a news conference she participated in recently in which she unveiled a plan that would completely fund schools if businesses would be willing to not take the full tax break they would get under Measure 47. The senate president responded to the proposal, according to Castillo, by saying it was a "wish list." Castillo responded by saying, "Yes, it's a wish list. It's a wish list on every kid's list."

Floyd Prozanski addressed the effects of Measure 11 on juveniles who commit crimes which fall under the measure. Many of these are first-time offenders but are being punished as though they were repeat offenders, he said. These punishments are severe for the nature of most of the crimes and are contributing to an overcrowding problem in our prisons.

"Right now, the state is in the process of building seven prisons that will cost \$1 billion... That is coming out of the general revenue," Prozanski said. That mon-



Eugene City Manager Vicki Elmer discusses Measure 47 Wednesday night at the Hilyard Community Center.

ey can be going towards education, he said.

"As a state we are going in the wrong direction," Prozanski said. He labeled the focus on prisons a reactionary tactic and said Oregon should be focusing on education.

Kitty Elmer, who titles herself the "bleeding heart legislator," said her main concern is the family and children in the community. She plans to pressure each community to develop comprehensive runaway and homeless plans to help the 35,000 kids in Oregon that are homeless.

Elmer said Oregon is one of only six states that have no regulations governing child care,

which means there aren't even rules that ensure a child will have accessible running water and clean waste disposal. She said this is her main issue, and has six bills in the works to try to establish these basic parameters for children in Oregon.

Each of the speakers, as well as the public, showed great concern towards education reforms. Representing the South Eugene high school student body was Adriane Myers, the student body vice president, who presented the speakers with a petition with over 500 hundred signatures which demonstrated the concern for education cuts the students and teachers have.

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The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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