

Beltline

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mental assessment of the highway from 1991 to 1995. Cahill said the project is in response to an increase in traffic volume and safety issues.

The announcement of the Beltline project follows the completion of the ten-year-long Ferry Street Bridge project. Philip Weiler, director of communications for the city of Eugene, believes commuters will be tolerant of the delays and the detours for the sake of a better highway.

"I think the residents in Bethel and Danebo areas will be happy to travel a little smoother down Beltline," Weiler said. "The project will make travel a little easier. It will pull traffic off local streets and put it on the highway where

it should be."

In the first phase of the current project, Roosevelt Boulevard will be extended from Beltline to the existing section of Roosevelt Boulevard between Danebo and Terry Streets. New traffic signals will be installed on Roosevelt Boulevard at Beltline highway and at Danebo Street. This will provide an alternate route.

Once the Roosevelt Boulevard route is completed late this spring, the travel lanes on Beltline Highway will shift westward, and no turns will be allowed at the intersection of Royal Avenue and Beltline. Bridge and widening work and bike path construction is scheduled to be done this year, with paving, landscaping and illumination work scheduled to finish by September 2001.

Forum attendants criticize EPD

■ At Tuesday's People's Forum, some community members question certain police behavior

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Tempers flared at the third People's Forum held Tuesday night at the Lane County Courthouse.

While most of the forum followed schedule and remained organized, a handful of the nearly 200 people present shouted out of turn in criticism of the Eugene Police Department during a question and answer period.

Carol Berg, one of the organizers of the forum, said the event, which was founded by a group of Eugene activists, met its goal of opening channels of communication between law enforcement officials and the

community at large.

"People had very strong opinions, but it went along well," Berg said.

The most heated public comments criticized the EPD's use of tear gas and were directed toward Police Chief Jim Hill, who was the only EPD officer in the group of 16 scheduled speakers at the forum. At the end of the question and answer period, Hill jokingly said, "I'm the cop du jour."

Several audience members claimed the EPD deployed the first canister of tear gas used to disperse the June 18, 1999 protest-rioters into a park where protesters had gathered. This act, one audience member said, would have been illegal because the protesters were in a contained area, not blocking public access.

Hill said that while tear gas was deployed in the park to disperse the crowd, he saw the first canis-

ters released in the street in response to rioting.

One audience member responded, shouting, "That's a lie."

After about 15 minutes of questions and comments from the audience, scheduled speaker Charles Dalton, from the Police Commission, a private organization that analyzes Eugene police action, took the microphone and asked that comments remain civil.

"I encourage all of us not to demonize each other and remember that all of us were born from a mother," Dalton said.

In addition to addressing the use of tear gas, comments from scheduled speakers and audience members addressed topics ranging from police motivations and problems facing Oregon's courts and prison systems to removing the police force and prosecution of police who brake the law.

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Civil rights

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er registration.

The ashes were practically still smoldering when former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Jacob Tanzer got off the plane to join civil rights efforts in Mississippi.

Upon Tanzer's arrival, a fellow civil rights lawyer showed him this scene.

"The purpose was to fill me with a sense of conviction and dedication for what I was doing," Tanzer said.

A panel of Oregon lawyers who represented African-American clients in Mississippi in the sixties, when few Mississippi lawyers would do so, spoke Tuesday night at the law school on their experiences as civil rights lawyers. The event was held to commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Robin Morris Collin, chair of the Minority Student Program Committee, reminded the audience of 65 what the racial climate was like in Mississippi when these lawyers entered the scene.

"Going to Mississippi in the summer of 1964 and thereafter was dangerous," Collin said.

Director

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tion are to improve year-to-year continuity, organization and leadership development.

MCC staff members modeled the job description after the Women's Center director position. Lisa Foisy, who holds that position, said it is key in helping a student group be more organized, therefore better able to serve its purpose.

It is important for organizations to have systems in place, "so students aren't always reinventing the wheel," Foisy said.

The role of director is not to say what is right or wrong, but to provide students with organization and guidelines to achieve their visions.

"Crosses were burned in 64 of Mississippi's 82 counties in one night. One night. It was a warning from the Klan: 'Don't come down here, you outside agitators.'"

In the summer of 1964, what is now known as freedom summer, there were more than 1,000 civil-rights-related arrests, 80 beatings, 35 shootings, 35 black church burnings and 30 bombings, Collin said.

This was the climate the three panel members entered. It was like "living in a pressure cooker," Don H. Marmaduke said.

Marmaduke joined Les Swanson and Jacob Tanzer on the panel that represented 25 Oregon lawyers who participated as volunteers on the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, an organization chartered in 1963 by President Kennedy.

Event organizer Merv Loya showed a film documentation of some of the Oregon Lawyers who participated in Mississippi, and then the panel members shared their personal stories and experiences.

"This is a meaningful occasion, and we are very pleased to be a part of it," Marmaduke said.

"In the end, Oregon lawyers contributed more lawyers to this movement than any other state in the union," he said.

"We learned how the law can make changes in our society and our culture," Swanson said of the experience.

To go to Mississippi was not a matter of courage, Swanson said, "bad things were happening in this country—it wasn't a hard decision."

Tanzer echoed Swanson: "It wasn't a matter of courage; it was a matter of opportunity."

"There was a historic turning point—a mass movement," Tanzer said. "A movement from an unjust situation that might turn out to be a just situation. The choice of good and evil was clear."

"What we gave them was a little bit of technical help," Tanzer said. "What Martin Luther King gave them was the impetus that led to channel, focus, their energy. His weapon was a secret resource that called on the best of us. He called on us to love. He called on us to respect. He called on us to be decent."

After Tanzer saw the ashes of the church, he began to understand what he and the other lawyers were up against. "I realized what kind of forces were at work. It wasn't just the law. It was fear. Malice. Intimidation."

"But they went anyway," Collin said.

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a project of The Century Foundation a project of The Sagner Family Foundation

Oregon Daily Emerald
P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

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, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 200 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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