

Sparks fly over the details of Measure 20-36

■ Opponents say police should make better use of existing office space

By Eric Martin
for the Emerald

Advocates for a ballot measure that would fund a new police station and the land for a new fire station hope voters who rejected a similar measure in May will support their proposal this time around.

A revised and trimmed version of May's Measure 20-31, Measure 20-36 calls for the construction of an 80,000-square foot police station — 17,500-square feet less than originally planned — that meets earthquake safety codes and eliminates overcrowding. The new station would be located on city-owned property on East Eighth Avenue, across the street from City Hall.

The station would provide the "same square footage other similar-size police departments in the Northwest have," said John Brown, a real estate appraiser and former member of the Eugene Police/Fire

Station Task Force. "That's what they need."

Eugene Police Department Lt. Rick Ziel said space in the current police facility is cramped, and cited the 12-foot by 14-foot waiting room as an example.

"There's no privacy," Ziel said. "If you've got a girlfriend or wife that's just been raped, you have to stand in a room with other people and tell [the officers] what you want to tell them."

The city formed the task force last summer to ascertain why voters rejected the original measure. The force concluded that voters found the levy too costly, disapproved of the proposed location and wanted to see design plans before devoting money to the project.

The new levy would be almost \$6 million cheaper, would use city-owned property and includes plans for the police station. The measure also provides funds for the purchase of property for a new fire station that could be built within the next two years, Brown said.

Opponents of the measure say the \$21.1 million cost for the pro-

posed municipal facilities is too expensive and unnecessary. They argue that taxpayer dollars could be saved if the city were to better use the office space it already has.

"There are other, less-expensive options they're not looking at," said Gary Kutcher, citizen activist and opponent to the measure. "I think they've become fixated with the idea of a fancy, new police station."

But Brown said though some disagree with tactics employed by Eugene police officers, they deserve safe facilities taxpayers would want themselves. He said seismic studies conducted by three outside architectural consulting firms showed that a minimal earthquake could flatten the existing police station, an unacceptable possibility for essential services like police because they must be on-call during disasters.

"The city has not paid much attention to it, but it's a fact they've known for 10 years," Brown said. "In Western Oregon there have been 10 moderate earthquakes — measuring between 2.0 and 6.3 on the Richter scale — since 1993."

But Kutcher said there were seismic studies completed a year ago that concluded existing facilities could be updated and made earthquake resistant with a cost of \$3 million to \$5 million.

He also said taxpayers aren't getting what they pay for in Measure 20-36 because only property for and the design of a new fire department facility are funded by the measure — not the facility itself.

"I'm really troubled by the ballot title (in the City of Eugene Voter's Pamphlet)," Kutcher said. "I believe they're trying to fake voters out by implying they will get a fire station."

The line in question, printed on page six of the voter's pamphlet, reads: "Shall City of Eugene issue up to \$25,120,000 general obligation bonds for downtown police facilities and a fire station?"

Kutcher said the line is biased rhetoric attempting to sway voters to cast their ballots for the measure.

But Brown disagrees, and said the language in question was drafted by the City Council.

"It's not misleading to me," he

Eugene Ballot Measure 20-36

- The measure would give the city a maximum of \$25.1 million in local tax dollars to build a new police station and purchase land for a new fire department.

- Supporters say the city's police and fire facilities are outdated, cramped and need to be replaced to accommodate the city's growing population. They also say the police station is seismically unsound, raising concerns that the Eugene Police Department could be crippled in an earthquake or other disaster.

- Opponents say the price tag is too big and that cheaper options, such as better managing of the city's existing facilities, should be explored.

said. "I know what [the general obligation funds] are for. If you read the ordinance, you'll see a fire station is not included in this measure. But let's say we build [the police station] for \$22,500,000. The excess money will go toward a fire station."

News briefs

New login method for modem access

If you use a modem to access the University network, read this: University Computing is rolling a new login method into use, and as of today, the previous method will no longer work.

"There are two things we're trying to get across to people," Patrick Chinn of Microcomputer Services

said. "First, users need to replace their old modem account username and password with their e-mail address and password. The other part of that is they have to be using an account on oregon, darkwing, or gladstone."

Specifically, users must replace the modem account name — example, uo-janestudent — with their full account name — example, Janestudent@gladstone.uoregon.edu — as the login and then the password for that account.

Also, users who might not have an account on gladstone, oregon, or darkwing such as law students, will have to open a new account on any of those three systems.

To set up a new account, go to 151 Grayson Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For questions or help, information is available online at <http://micro.uoregon.edu/modem-info> or you can call Microcomputer Services at 346-4412 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Expert speaks on disability issues

Adrienne Asch, an internationally recognized activist in the field of disability rights and disability studies, discusses the implication of genetic engineering, assisted suicide and the Human Genome Project during a symposium today titled, "Disability Studies: Where Has It Been? Where Is It Going?"

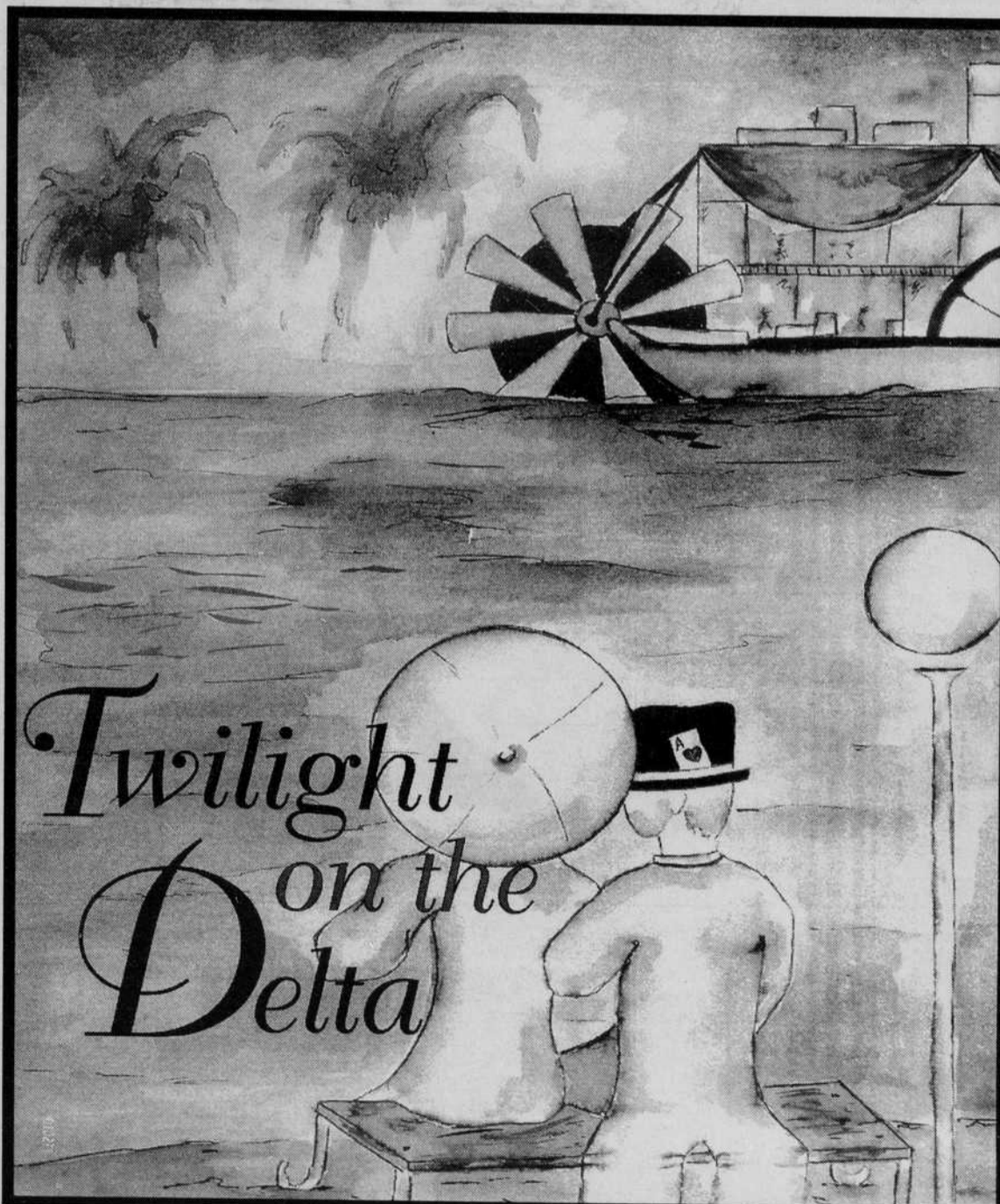
The conference, free and open to the public, is scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Fir Room of

the EMU. The Center on Human Development in the College of Education is sponsoring the event.

Asch is the Henry R. Luce Professor in Biology, Ethics and the Politics of Human Reproduction at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. It is a mistake to view all disabilities as handicaps that must be overcome, she said.

For more information or to register, call the University Center on Human Development at 346-2488.

From staff reports



Thank You!

The Oregon Homecoming Committee would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the 2000 Homecoming Ball:

SPONSORS:

Romania Auto Group • U-Lane-O Credit Union • University Housing • Student Alumni Association • President's Fund • P.A.R.T.Y. Fund • ASUO Student Senate • Marmot • KAPLAN Test Preparation Center • Les Schwab Tires • Robinson Theater • Hult Center for the Performing Arts • Office of the President • Fiddler's Green Golf Course • Onsen Spas • Siegmund's Cleaners • Track Town Pizza • Euphoria Chocolate Company • Napoli Restaurant • UO Bookstore • Allen Hall Advertising • The Break • The Carpet Company • Eugene Elks Lodge No. 357 • Jerry's Home Improvement • King Estate Vineyard • Marist High School Woodworking Classes • Office of Student Life • Office of Student Orientation Programs • Springfield Elks Lodge No. 2145 • Alpha Phi Omega • Pi Beta Phi Sorority • Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity • Presidential Student Scholars Association • Ms. Katie Bryant • Ms. Laura Connell • Mr. Bill Daley • Mr. Bob Devereaux • Ms. Mary Hudzikiewicz • Mr. and Mrs. John Madden • Ms. Stephanie Winchester

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bryan Orthel • Greg Danielson • Cora Bennett • Charissa Martin • Mary Elizabeth Madden • Amy Farley • Jennifer Brewer