

INTEGRITY AWARD

This year's Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award will go to Oakland, Calif., mayor Ronald Dellums for his Morse-like qualities. The award will be presented at a banquet at the Valley River Inn on Oct. 26.

Prior to his position as mayor, Dellums, a Democrat, was the first openly socialist politician to be elected to Congress since World War II when he took office in the House of Representatives in 1971. He is a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

According to Jayne Mickles, president of the board of the Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation (WMHPC), which sponsors the award, Dellums was selected based on his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War, his work on civil rights issues, his antiapartheid South Africa stance and, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, his work to reform U.S. military policy.

Morse, a U.S. senator from Oregon from 1944-1968 epitomized an "extraordinary level of integrity and independence, a commitment to justice and a willingness to

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **3,829 U.S. troops killed*** (3,815)
- **28,171 U.S. troops injured*** (27,767)
- **128 U.S. military suicides*** (122)
- **302 coalition troops killed**** (301)
- **933 contractors killed** (accurate updates NA)
- **81,887 Iraqi civilians killed***** (81,405)
- **\$460.2 billion cost of war** (\$458.2 billion)
- **\$130.9 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$130.3 million)

* through Oct. 15, 2007; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly

** estimate; source: icasualties.org

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 to one million

Election Endorsements

• **Eugene Measure 20-134: NO.** This measure amends the downtown urban renewal plan to increase spending (public subsidies) by at least \$40 million. We are eager for the center of our city to thrive, transformed into a place of pride for all of us. *EW* is a downtown business. Many of our employees live on the edges of downtown. *EW* has supported one downtown initiative after another, opening the streets, even eliminating the children's play area, and favoring the recent Connor-Woolley proposals as far as they went.

But we do not support 20-134. This is a pig-in-a-poke measure and, to use another old cliché, if you believe that \$40 million is essentially "free" money with no tax consequences for your city to give to developers, you should be bidding on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Right now the city of Eugene has about \$5 million available in downtown urban renewal funds, plus about \$20 million in other development incentives to fund downtown projects. That's enough to immediately develop both the Aster and Sears pits, subsidize housing, reclaim historic buildings, and much more. Let's do these projects now, at the same time preserving the opportunity for local businesses to compete downtown.

Let's not OK an additional \$40 million in urban renewal funds for a project that will be developer-dictated, no matter how many committees, planning departments or city councils say otherwise. That's the way it works. Once developers have the subsidy, they gain a powerful threat to pull out and go away. So much city staff and political capital has been spent on the big KWG proposal that every effort will be made to keep KWG happy – and 13 percent profitable.

The most famous big urban renewal project in downtown Eugene closed streets, put up an ugly fortress-fountain, destroyed historic buildings and helped kill the center city. Let's learn from our mistakes, invest in smaller projects, and do all we can to support and grow local downtown businesses, housing, parks and entertainment. It's already happening. A rising housing complex is coloring a new skyline next to the WOW hall. Davis' restaurant is buzzing. New law offices are going up where the Bookmark was. Art, music and food abound. Join us in voting no on Measure 20-134.

• **Eugene Measure 20-132: YES.** This measure adds a 3 cents a gallon fuel tax to the current 5 cent tax, to be used to repair streets and roads within the city limits. With regular gas in Eugene ranging from \$2.77 to \$3.21 a gallon (OregonGasPrices.com), we doubt many Eugeneans will burn gas to drive to Springfield to save a few pennies. Meanwhile, Eugene is falling behind on street maintenance, and it's cheaper in the long run to fix streets than to replace them. Cracks and potholes are also damaging to vehicles and dangerous to bicyclists. What's needed is for the state to impose a bigger statewide fuel tax and weight-mile tax that will hit the truckers who do the most damage to our pavement, not only on the highways but also on our city streets and county roads. Higher gas taxes also encourage people to drive less, something local livability and the planet desperately need.

• **Springfield Measure 20-131: NO.** This measure would slightly increase taxes and divert at least \$43 million from school, city and county tax revenues for "urban renewal" projects in downtown Springfield. We doubt most Springfield voters really know what they're voting on here. The city first needs an honest, informed debate on the large size of the district, tax diversion, tax increases and other uses for the money. For example, instead of taxing citizens for a new jail facility downtown, the city could have used urban renewal.

• **State Measure 49: YES.** This measure referred by the Legislature repairs some of the damage and confusion created by the flawed Measure 37 that Oregon voters approved in 2004. We would much rather see Measure 37 completely abolished, but that's not likely to happen anytime soon and the clock is ticking on thousands of land-use atrocities in the works. Measure 49 fixes some of the most egregious consequences of Measure 37, such as permitting sprawling housing developments, strip malls, gravel pits and billboards on valuable farm and forestlands. One of the big problems with Measure 37 is the inequities it created: Some landowners gained development rights while their neighbors did not; and developments on resource lands can actually drive down the value of surrounding land. It's a legal and ethical mess. Measure 49 is a step toward restoring commonsense land use planning in Oregon.

• **State Measure 50: YES.** This measure adds 84.5 cents per pack to the tobacco taxes currently in effect, with the proceeds going to bolster Oregon's Healthy Kids program. The measure earns matching federal funds and provides health insurance to about 100,000 Oregon children and about 10,000 low-income adults through the Oregon Health Plan. The tobacco corporations' multi-million-dollar TV ad campaign against Measure 50 avoids any mention of smoking or health care for children. Instead, the ads talk about politicians, higher taxes and inept bureaucrats. It's all smoke and mirrors. The new tax is regressive in that it affects low-income smokers more than other smokers, but raising the cost of tobacco discourages young people from starting the expensive habit, and encourages smokers to quit. We don't love higher taxes, but here's one that literally saves lives in multiple ways.



CHUB MAKING A COMEBACK

While Oregon's mighty salmon are still in trouble thanks to dammed rivers, logging and pesticides, a tiny local fish is trying to make a comeback, according to the McKenzie River Trust.

The Oregon chub is a small species of minnow. It's a little speckled fish that reaches a maximum of about three inches in length. It was added to the endangered species list in 1993, where it joins its larger federally listed brethren like spring Chinook salmon and bull trout.

Twenty adult chub were trapped by researchers on Green Island, the property owned by the McKenzie River Trust at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers near Coburg. This raises hopes a healthy population of chub may exist on the island. Green Island is also home to a "long list of both federal and state listed species," says the Trust, ranging from red-legged frogs to bald eagles.

Green Island is named for the family that owned and farmed the land, which the Trust purchased in 2003. The Trust is working to restore the 1,400 acre island complex for wildlife habitat.

Oregon chub are found only in the Willamette Basin, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Their habitat is in side channels and backwaters of the river, many of which have been destroyed thanks to dike construction, channelization of streams and draining and filling of wetlands. The chub are hunted or pushed out of their habitat by human introduced non-native species like large and smallmouth bass, bluegill, and western mosquito-fish.

The Oregon chub is one of many chub species in Oregon that are federally listed, some, like the Oregon chub and the Borax Lake chub, which exists only in one hot springs in Eastern Oregon, exist only in very limited areas. At one point the Oregon chub could only be found in four spots on the Willamette. It can now be found in 35 areas.

These species are related to, but distinct from the illegally introduced tui chub that were eradicated from Diamond Lake last year after causing the release of an algae-released neurotoxin. – *Camilla Mortensen*

