

Airport funding plan merits tax increase

The airport subcommittee of the Eugene City Council met last week and formulated recommendations on how to fund the expansion of the Mahlon Sweet airport for the council to consider at its meeting Dec. 15.

Although property taxes are not popular in Lane County right now, Councilwoman Debra Ehrman's suggestion of a property tax increase may be the best way to finance the expansion.

All three members of the subcommittee agreed that the airport bonds debts be paid by a voter-approved general obligation bond issue, similar to the jail bond measure that passed in this fall's election.

This is a good recommendation, since this type of bond has a lower interest rate than other financing options. The bonds would be paid off over a 15- to 20-year period.

The question is how to make the \$500,000 to \$550,000-a-year payments to pay off the bonds, thus financing the airport expansion.

A sufficient property tax increase would raise the property taxes of a \$60,000 home and lot by \$12.60 to \$13.20 annually.

The airport expansion is a necessary and beneficial project, and one which would receive wide support in the community. The increase in property taxes would be offset by economic growth spurred by the expanded airport, which many businesses use as a key criterion when deciding where to locate.

The airport is the second largest in Oregon, serving a six-county area and one-quarter of Oregon's population.

An expansion in the airport's terminal and parking lots would provide easier air access to the Eugene-Springfield area, making the area more economically lively and competitive in attracting businesses.

Just as the community saw the jail-bond measure as a necessary improvement, and passed it this fall, the airport measure is one which could easily win the support of the community.

The city currently is also considering a capital improvement plan; it should be careful that the plans for the airport do not interfere with this capital improvement plan.

This plan seeks to preserve the city's infrastructure, including repairs to roofs, sprinkler systems and sewers on city property and includes important projects such as the expansion or relocation of the Eugene library and the relocation of several emergency fire stations in Eugene.

If the airport expansion is forced to compete with this plan, either the capital improvements will be compromised or a property tax increase will become necessary after all.

The airport expansion is a project that enhances the Eugene-Springfield area and should not have to compete with other plans to enhance the area.

In particular, plans for the expansion or relocation of the Eugene Public Library should be protected. The city council unanimously adopted on Monday a report on relocating the library, which calls for tripling the size of the existing building.

The council recognizes the importance of the library in Eugene, as well as the need for capital improvements in Eugene. These needs of the city should be pursued at the same time as, and without the financial competition of, the airport expansion.

Now that we know what was going on in the White House basement... what was happening in the attic?...



Letters

Lip service

I'm so tired of reading letters from men quoting the Bible as if it were the only text that women should base their actions on.

What is the Bible? It is one of many texts that has some good precepts about love and respect for individuals in society. But let's not forget that the Bible necessitates a belief and support for patriarchy as well. To interpret the Bible literally is to be ignorant and naive.

Why don't women speak up? Why don't people quote women who have faced the dilemma of abortion?

To all the "loving pro-life" people who graciously talk about "our moral responsibility" to the fetus, I want you to convince a teenage runaway, porn star, prostitute, or drug pusher of your wonderful ideas.

After all, they owe their comfortable life to people such as you who banned abortion when they were in the womb. Now, thanks to people with your kind of "morals" they get to go beg for food, steal, get beat up, and sleep under a nice warm bridge.

As for the possibility of institutionalized help, how do you suppose we can ever organize a successful program when our society cannot even help the elderly, the disabled, or the very poor?

Remember, theory and practice are two different things.

All you pro-lifers seem to

focus on the fetus. What a cop-out! Why don't you ever focus on the 60 years of an unwanted and neglected human being?

Joyce Lee Senior

Rattled cages

In response to Jon Wollander and Finn John's recent volley of "intolerable" definitions of tolerance, I would like to add potentially intolerable ideas.

First of all, allow me to point out the fact that religion as a social force of good will is somewhat damaged by those who represent it self-righteously. When the Christian fundamentalists speak out on the moral issues of today, I often ask myself, "Are they speaking to people or are they speaking out to the Gate Keeper of heaven — the goodness of their ways — so as to assure themselves a place in heaven?"

If this is so, and I have good reason to believe that it is, then it makes sense that they would abandon the virtues of science for the egotistical desires of everlasting life.

What about the world that the unborn children of tomorrow might inherit from these people who fear dying? Does their "pro-life" (pro-human is more accurate) campaign include marching in protest of senseless destruction of rain forests or aquatic animals? Not that I've ever heard of. Why is this?

Because caring about the heaven that is our earth is something that the "I-want-to-live-forever's" don't think is of any importance to their "God in heaven."

Historically, religion has

played an important role in shaping societies. Today, however, with the arrogance of those that speak in righteous tongues, its new purpose is to rattle the cages of progressive science and to let those inside know that people of Biblical intelligence are still around.

Patrick Clancy Eugene

Real projects

We appreciate the Emerald's interest in our fall term project "A camp for neglected and abused children" (ODE, Dec. 5).

Two studios have engaged the project: Arch 585, as reported; and an Arch 380 studio taught by Professor Glenda Utsey. The final review is Wednesday evening, not afternoon.

The studio has been typical of the "real" projects that the department of architecture undertakes. It has been made a special experience for all concerned through the involvement of the director of the Melinda Foundation, Steve Norris, and two outstanding consultants: Professor Mary Faeth Chenery, leisure studies — an authority on camps who shared her experience with us; and, Melody Dabney from Womenspace, and a counselor of abused children who inspired students with the depth of her knowledge and her ability to help them empathize with the camp's intended users.

Michael Utsey Associate professor of architecture
Glenda Fravel Utsey Assistant professor of architecture

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director Susan Thelen
Production Manager Diane Fassler
Classified Advertising Alyson Simmons
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: John Boiler, Sales Manager
Teresa Acosta, Paul Anderson, Ann Cole, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Peter LaFleur, Catherine Lilja, Joseph Menzel, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor Michelle Brence
Managing Editor Lucinda Dillon
News Editor Michael Rivers
Spectrum Editor Curtis Condon
Spectrum Assistant Editor Stephen Maher
Editorial Page Editor James Young
Editorial Page Assistant Editor Michael Drummond
Sports Editor Capi Lynn
Photo Editor Michael Wilhelm
Graphic Design Editor Lorraine Rath
Night Editor Chris Norred

Associate Editors
Community Jolayne Houtz
Politics Shawn Wirtz
Higher Education / Administration Chris Norred
University Affairs Stan Nelson
Student Government Sarah Kitchen
Student Activities Tonnie Dakin
General Assignment Dennis Fernandes

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Karen Creighton, Gary Henley, Carolyn Lamberson, John McBaron.
Photographers: Sheryn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, James Marks, Dan Wheeler, Michael Wilhelm.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Sandra Bevens, Janet Emery, Manuel Flores, Shannon Gaither, James Kenny, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Ross Martin, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Kara Oberst, Ami Pate, Julie Pauf, Jennifer Peterson, Kristin Sanburg, Nils Tjolm, X Kang Xie.