

# Editorial

## Vehicular traffic unfit for downtown mall

The portion of Willamette Street between Eighth and 10th avenues has become the focus of vigorous public debate during the last few months. Controversy has been sparked by a proposal to reopen to vehicular traffic the central plaza of the downtown shopping mall where Willamette Street intersects Broadway Street.

Two distinct proposals have been presented to the Eugene City Council by urban design consultant Don Miles. The first proposal would create a narrow, two-lane street with parking bays that would run down Willamette Street and through the portion of the mall where the concrete fountain presently stands.

Another proposal would renovate and redevelop the portion of Willamette Street that runs through the mall without reintroducing motorized traffic to the two-block section of downtown.

Renovation, rather than motorization, should be implemented by the city council to preserve a part of Eugene where pedestrians can shop without the interference from vehicular traffic.

Reintroducing traffic to the two-block section of the mall will create more problems than it would solve, and little evidence supports the hypothesis that reopening the street will improve the economic conditions of downtown business.

After Sunday's fatal accident on Franklin Boulevard, the underlying danger of the automobile has been brought to the forefront of public consciousness. Reopening Willamette Street to traffic, even though it may be slow and controlled by traffic lights, will endanger shoppers to the potential brutality of the automobile.

With the presence of cars and trucks, noise pollution in the mall will increase, thereby diminishing the pleasantness of the shopping environment. Traffic would be repugnant to many shoppers, and the public has made this clear to the city council in both written and oral responses.

In addition, air pollution in the pedestrian mall also will increase as a result of reopening Willamette Street to traffic. Although this increase in air pollution may be small and unnoticeable, it will still detract from the mall's objective of providing an attractive place to shop.

Reopening Willamette Street to vehicular traffic may improve the smooth flow of traffic in the downtown area, but doing so may have consequences that presently are unperceived.

The teenagers who cruise the "gut", for example, may migrate to the new Willamette Street, especially because residents near the gut are attempting to eradicate cruisers from the neighborhood. An increase in cruisers along Willamette Street would, in effect, lead to an increased amount of crime, noise, and litter in the downtown mall area.

The aesthetic consequences of reintroducing traffic to the mall not only outweigh the possible economic benefits of such a plan, but also may negate any such benefits.

The negative externalities that would accompany the presence of the automobile in the mall could conceivably decrease the amount of business stores and restaurants received because people would be more inclined to shop elsewhere, such as Valley River Center.

Several downtown business owners have expressed opposition to the initiative. Furthermore, an initial public hearing on the proposal to allow traffic down Willamette indicated many Eugene residents oppose the plan.

The continuity of the walking mall should be preserved at the small expense of excluding the automobile. But if the city council, which recently split in a vote, decides to reopen the mall to vehicular traffic, then the issue should be presented to the public on the next available ballot.



## Letters

### Strong defense

With Aug. 6 comes the memorialization of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. And now my thoughts go back through the years to those mothers, fathers, wives and children who lost their loved ones in fierce battles of the southwest pacific.

Oh yes, the Japanese had lives lost, but I also remember that "day of infamy" when they (the Japanese) without provocation destroyed Pearl Harbor and indiscriminately slaughtered both civilians and military personnel.

I still recall our youth in military uniform fighting in far off jungles, wounded, suffering and dying to protect the world from the savage imperialist whose aim was world domination.

And then President Truman, commander in chief, made a most painful decision — Hiroshima and Nagasaki were made targets. This ended the war.

For me to memorialize these two cities and their losses would be for me to turn my back on those who died to defend the world against a dictatorship with all its evils.

Let's all remember, only through a strong defense is peace possible.

Edward A. Kelly  
Commander  
Lane County  
Veterans Council

### Trojan horse

The proposed new constitution called the "New State of America" is dangerous to our freedom. To me it's like a Trojan horse.

Here we are fighting communism and paying out a huge amount for defense and this document could take away much of what we hold dear without there even being an army marching on us.

I refer to the proposed changes that would come about — such as the bearing of arms allowed only to the military, the police and those licensed under law.

I refer to the part in Article I Section 8 where it says religion shall be privileged. That means no right to practice your religion. You know what happens to privileges when some bureaucrat decides to take them away. They are gone. That's what happens.

I also refer to Section 11. Education shall be provided at public expense to those who meet appropriate tests of eligibility. That would have probably left Einstein out. I hear he was quite the dunce.

And Linus Pauling — the only living two-time Nobel Prize winner. He said a very encouraging small class and its professors made the difference for him at Oregon State before he went to Harvard.

All of our states would be divided up into new states.

As you might expect this was put together by non-elected, non-appointed people from a group calling themselves the "Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions." This was paid for with money that indirectly came from our taxes.

Rose Marie Wymore  
Veneta

### Stereotyping

In response to the July 21 editorial cartoon, I feel it was quite effective — effective in increasing the fear of pit bulls and continuing a stereotype image of pit bulls.

Increasing awareness should be a goal for the Emerald, in-

stead of making the pit bull a very fearsome and always dangerous animal.

Any animal can be trained to be as vicious as many pit bulls. No one knows what makes so many pit bulls attack, whether it's breeding or the environment and training.

Stereotyping all pit bulls is just the same as stereotyping all women or all blacks. While it is true these animals don't have the same rights or respect that women and blacks now have, I don't believe it's right to make the pit bulls seem so feared.

A possible alternative to the cartoon would be writing an article presenting the pros and cons of pit bulls. Presenting a neutral opinion, I think, would make the Emerald seem more open than a one-minded paper that stereotypes.

Heidi Schuman  
TAG student

### Dog solutions

In response to the July 21 editorial cartoon, I believe the pit bull race should not be totally outlawed, but perhaps there should be an insurance policy for a group of high-risk dogs. The greater the risk, the more you pay. Also, an analysis of the home and owners would also be prudent.

The outlawing of owning more than one pit bull would stop the private party from breeding them. This in turn would be left to a couple of very specialized breeders.

I think there isn't just one cause but two. Their instinctive viciousness makes them easy prey for organized criminals of all sorts.

On the other hand, in some cases the dogs are overly vicious, causing the family's "cute" pit bull to suddenly, and without warning, attack the innocent.

If the suggestions in the above paragraphs are used, I think the problem would be dramatically reduced and laws can once again return to the number one position.

Brian Turner  
TAG student

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403. Daily publication will resume with the fall term.

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  
Production Manager  
Classified Manager  
Assistant to the Publisher

Susan Thelen  
Michele Ross  
Kelli Mason  
Jean Ownbey

**Editor**  
Managing Editor/Student Govt  
News Editor  
Editorial Page Editors  
Sports Editor  
Photo Editor  
Night Editor

**Associate Editors**  
Higher Ed/Administration  
Community

**Advertising:** Janelle Heitmann

**Production:** Sandra Daller/Ad Coordinator  
Kelly Alexandre, Elliot Knight, Diana Moy, Angela Muniz, Ted Shepler, Ingrid White, Kelly Williams, Serena Williams

**News and Editorial**  
Display Advertising  
Classified Advertising  
Letter Perfect Graphics  
Production  
Circulation and Business

Stanley Nelson  
Carolyn Lamberson  
Eden Godbey  
Angela Muniz  
Aaron Knox  
Shu-Shing Chen  
Stanley Nelson

Mike Drummond  
Stephen Maher

686-5511  
686-3712  
686-4343  
686-5511  
686-4381  
686-5511