

Eugene should not consider monorail

You have to admit it's an intriguing idea. Whizzing around Eugene in the splendor of a high-tech monorail system. Pollution-free, undistruptive of the skyline, fully computerized and automated. It has a certain appeal.

Unfortunately, one look at the price tag — and other considerations — ends all conversation of bringing a monorail to the city.

Last week, the president of a transit system company came to Eugene to speak on the subject of bringing the surrounding area into "the transit '90s." It was a fantastic proposal: building a monorail around Springfield and Eugene to serve such areas as Valley River Center, the Fairgrounds, Autzen Stadium and the University.

Supposedly, the monorail would streamline transit in the city, and eliminate traffic congestion. Between the monorail and the current bus system, Eugene transit would be a breeze.

However, the proposed six-mile route would cost an average of \$10 million per mile and could be maintained for a mere \$1 million a year. It was a nice thought while it lasted.

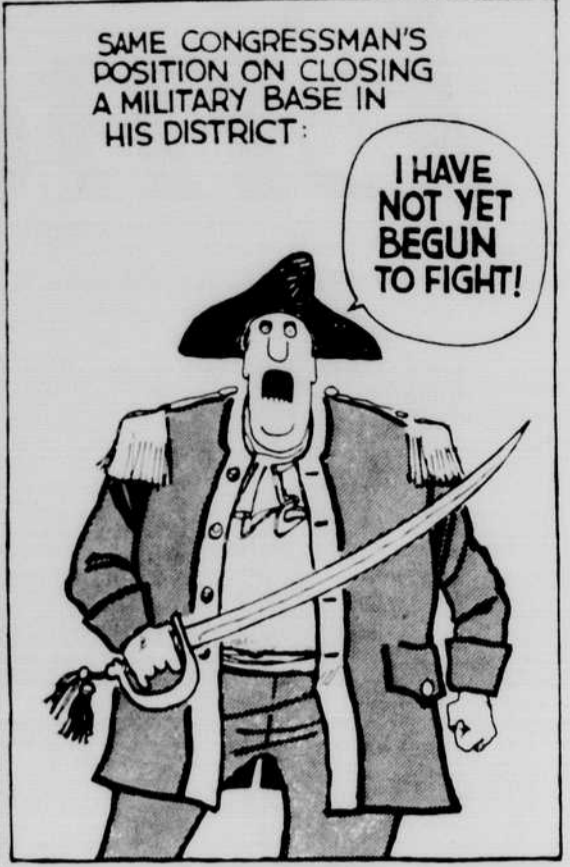
The City Council is not seriously taking the proposal under consideration, but it's necessary to stop any talk before it starts. A variety of reasons should keep council members from thinking about this project, or any similar one, in the near future.

First off, the price is beyond exorbitant. The city simply cannot afford \$60 million for a transit system. There isn't enough revenue, and not near enough tax dollars, to fund such a project, let alone keep it running. It seems odd that while the council is talking of reopening Willamette Street to stimulate downtown commerce that they would even listen to such a fantastic proposal.

Another reason for rejecting the monorail is the amount of people needed to make it feasible. While the system could handle 18,000 an hour, it would only require 10,000 people a day to break even. That might not seem like a lot, but 10,000 people is a hefty percentage of the local population. It's unlikely that this many people would use the monorail.

Some have criticized the city's bus system in the past. But in reality, LTD does a good job of serving the area's transit needs. A monorail would just take away from LTD travelers. There is no reason for two transit systems in Eugene.

With the high cost and other problems involved in such a system, it doesn't look like Eugene residents will be jetting around in the style and comfort of a monorail any time soon. It just doesn't make any sense at the present time.



City benefits from minor league baseball

Despite the inclement weather and season of the year, the thoughts of some city council members have turned to the glorious summer game of baseball — and with good reason. The Eugene Emeralds, the beloved local A-league farm club for the Kansas City Royals, may be ready to go big time.

Major League Baseball is being pressured by Congress to expand to additional cities such as Denver, Washington or St. Petersburg by 1994. When this happens, these expansion teams will need new minor league farm clubs to provide players and personnel. The time would be right for Eugene to step in and bid for a new Class AAA club.

Such a step would bring a certain amount of prestige to the city of course, but more importantly, it might lead to additional economic benefits as well.

Sports is a big business, and in Eugene, it is a good business. The Ems have led short-season Class A farm clubs in attendance for three of the last four years. University sporting events such as football and basketball regularly draw well. Community businesses, regular sponsors of these games, are eager to step into the affluent market of sports fans.

Upgrading the Ems to Class AAA is fea-

sible. The Ems currently average just less than 4,000 fans a game, which is almost equal to that of typical AAA franchises. In recent seasons, the Ems have outdrawn — in fewer games — the Portland Beavers AAA franchise. In addition to the fan support, there is corporate interest too. Last year, the Ems received a new scoreboard courtesy of sponsors.

Preparations to take advantage of the 1994 expansion would have to begin now, with the renovation of old Civic Stadium or the construction of a new one. Bob Beban, general manager of the Ems, says that a 7,000 seat stadium will be necessary to house a AAA club.

Civic Stadium currently seats 6,400 but would need modernization beyond the additional chairs. Civic is a great old-style park that is endearing for A-level play, but it would need to be reworked to meet AAA-level demands, with better locker rooms and training facilities, a bigger press box and a slightly larger field.

Whether it would be better to build a new stadium or retain classy old Civic is something city leaders should carefully study and consider. Whichever they choose, we encourage them to play ball and catch a AAA team.

Letters

Authority

Life, the greatest gift and miracle known to mankind, is seen simply as a revokable privilege in our country today. As the politicians race for the votes, and the doctors carry out the wishes of mothers with "unwanted" pregnancies, who is crying out for the rights of the over 4,000 children whose lives are taken away every day in the name of abortion?

We agree with the pro-life stance that Chris Kelso (ODE, Jan. 31) and Bob Weigel (ODE, Feb. 2) expressed in their letters. A child's life does not start at birth; rather, it begins with conception as you will be told by any scientist or doctor alike. Thus, the abortion of an unborn child is nothing short of murder.

We have all heard the "pro-abortion" rhetoric referring to the "rights" of the mother. Of course a mother has rights, but those rights end when they be-

gin to infringe on the rights of others. Yet, there is no greater infringement of a child's rights than prematurely taking his or her life.

No matter how much you try to justify your actions through lying to yourselves, or conforming to society, choosing abortion as a solution to "unwanted" pregnancy is the most selfish action that a mother or father can take. Who has given you the authority to keep your children from walking upon the face of the earth, or have you simply taken the authority upon yourselves?

Gregg McCallum
Psychology
David Jones
Political science
Anneliese Covert
Theatre arts

Tough wait

I read Bob Weigel's letter (ODE, Feb. 2) and as he re-

quested, I thought about what he said. He would like people who engage in sex to be prepared for a pregnancy every time, and to otherwise abstain.

Well, Weigel, since my husband and I plan to have our second child when our existing one is about seven years old, that means on the fifteenth of October, 1993, we will be able to actually have sex.

Ge, I can't wait.

Jackie Houey
Mathematics

Angry

Tired of reading angry letters? Then stop here and go on to the next.

I've had it! Enough anti-choice hypocrisy. All of you anti-choice pseudo-moralists, here's the bottom line: If you are so sure, so convinced, so positive that abortion is murder, then what are you doing organizing on street corners

with witty little signs?

Come on! If I were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that children were being slaughtered here in this state — in this country — you can bet I would be out of this university the next day, wielding any weapon needed to stop the murderers immediately.

If you are so sure that certain "evil" women and doctors are killing babies, and you do nothing about it, then you are no better than the German civilians who did nothing while one million Jewish children were shoved into ovens.

Obviously, you aren't so convinced that abortion is murder. How could you be? You anti-choice moralists are the same people who support Bush — Mr. Anti-child care, pro-death squads (El Salvador), and pro-massacre (China) himself.

Phil Zuckerman
Sociology

Moratorium

Recently, there has been a spate of letters concerning abortion in the Emerald "Letters" section. This would not be so bad if any of these letters presented facts or opinions that were not in several previous letters.

However, since any letter that might be printed in the future would only rehash familiar arguments, I propose that the staff of the Emerald declare a moratorium on letters concerning abortion through the remainder of the winter term and possibly spring term as well.

The newspaper at the University of Texas, *The Daily Texan*, instituted this policy for the spring semester of 1989. All appreciated the respite from abortion letters, with the possible exception of extremists on either side.

Richard Baldwin
Student