

Research park needed at stadium

By Glen Smith

The question of a research park and its necessity to be built is obvious when one realizes that the logging companies desire to remove as many trees from Oregon as rapidly as they can fell the forests, no matter how many long-haired, owl-loving hippies nail themselves to old growth trees.

And after this, if there is no industry or service to take its place, the state's main source

and study area in the midst of a recreation area that already exists and is in high use.

It would be inconsiderate of the people who've already found a good use of the park for exercise and a route free of automotive dangers to feel their space was being invaded. A research park placed just off Franklin Boulevard may clot the traffic of this already heavily-used artery, and that would be sadly myopic on the part of the planners.

However, the placement of the research park in the neighborhood of Autzen Stadium would be amicable for a number of reasons. The access to the stadium is designed to take an exceptional flux of traffic, and is convenient to people using Interstate 5. It's also only a 15-minute walk from the University.

With the stadium being used only for Saturday football games and the occasional rock band, the parking lot is for the most part unused and wasted.

If the research park is built in this area, the need to maintain a parking lot will be the shared expense of two, or possibly three occupants, and at least will not be another construction expense.

And because of the foresight of researchers and Autzen Stadium's schedulers, there should be no reason for a conflict of events. Conferences

could be planned for away games. Conferences planned far enough in advance by the research park would be respected by the Autzen Stadium schedulers. I also don't perceive a large influx of work on the weekends at the research park.

The building of the research park here would also highlight the Willamette Science and Technology Center by the people who would not only grasp the value of this institution, but would help to raise its funding above that provided by bake sales and begging alms from school kids' lunch money.

The symbiosis of these two places would help to interest our children in the sciences and technology. Additionally, the research park can encourage the maintenance of the eastern end of Alton Baker Park that people have worked hard to tidy up for cross-country joggers and other health-minded enthusiasts.

The economic development that the research park has the potential to bring to this community and Oregon cannot be stressed too much. And this, coupled with Eugene's ecological and political awareness, has the potential to push the city into the 21st century as a model city.

Glen Smith is a student at the University.

Commentary

of revenue and economy will be exported with the forests.

Before we are faced with the prospect of the Great Cascade Desert and the stigma of our largest money-making industry being methamphetamine labs and hydroponic pot cellars, it would be in the state's, the city's, and the University's best interests to act quickly and incorporate a research park that will help to attract top minds, as well as increase the capability to diversify the economic base for the people of Oregon.

The need to do this before the wolf of economic depression has chainsawed down the old growth door of economic security is obvious to most Oregonians.

Such a research park could be very useful in addressing how to maintain an ancient forest and looking for possible uses for the abundant plant life in medicine and biospheres, as well as geophysics concerns that are also pertinent to the state.

The park can also look into the creation of products that can take the place of wood and the feasibility of manufacturing such goods in this state. This could be of benefit to the many little towns that will not be able to make much of a tourist attraction in their neck of the stumps and will need to find some other means to stay alive.

The largest problem that the Research Park Project faces now is the attachment of the word "riverfront" that certain people have blinded themselves with. The placement by the river tends to take away from some people's enjoyment of this scenic area, leaving even less of the Willamette's banks to be enjoyed in a natural setting, and congesting the pedestrian way by putting a work

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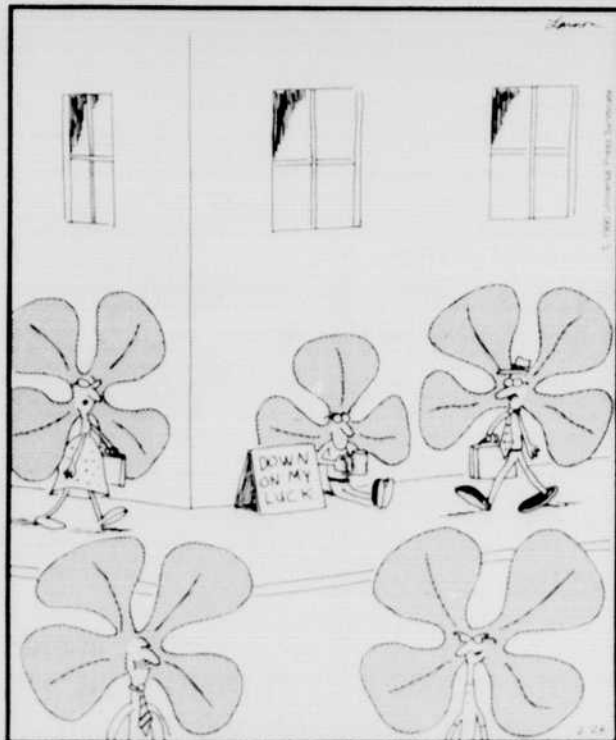
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By GARY LARSON



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