

LTD bus station: Is it really needed?

Walking down Kincaid Street along the west side of campus, one stumbles across the new Lane Transit District bus station. Immediately, the question arises: Why is it there, and, perhaps more importantly, do we need it? Just a football field's length down the street, there's another station that has been serving the campus area for years, and it always seemed to be doing a pretty good job.

The new station, built at a cost of \$225,000, represents a substantial investment. Is this money well spent, and why was it spent there?

LTD officials argue that the original station, located immediately across Kincaid from the University Bookstore, had become overcrowded in recent years, as ridership has escalated.

The number of passengers from the University has tripled in the past six years, and the number of routes serving the station has risen from five in 1987-88 to 16 today. This has led to increased congestion along the street, as buses, bicycles and automobiles each compete for a limited stretch of pavement.

But with parking on the west side of campus as scarce as it is, was it really necessary to gobble up all that space just to add a new station? Why not just enlarge the existing one?

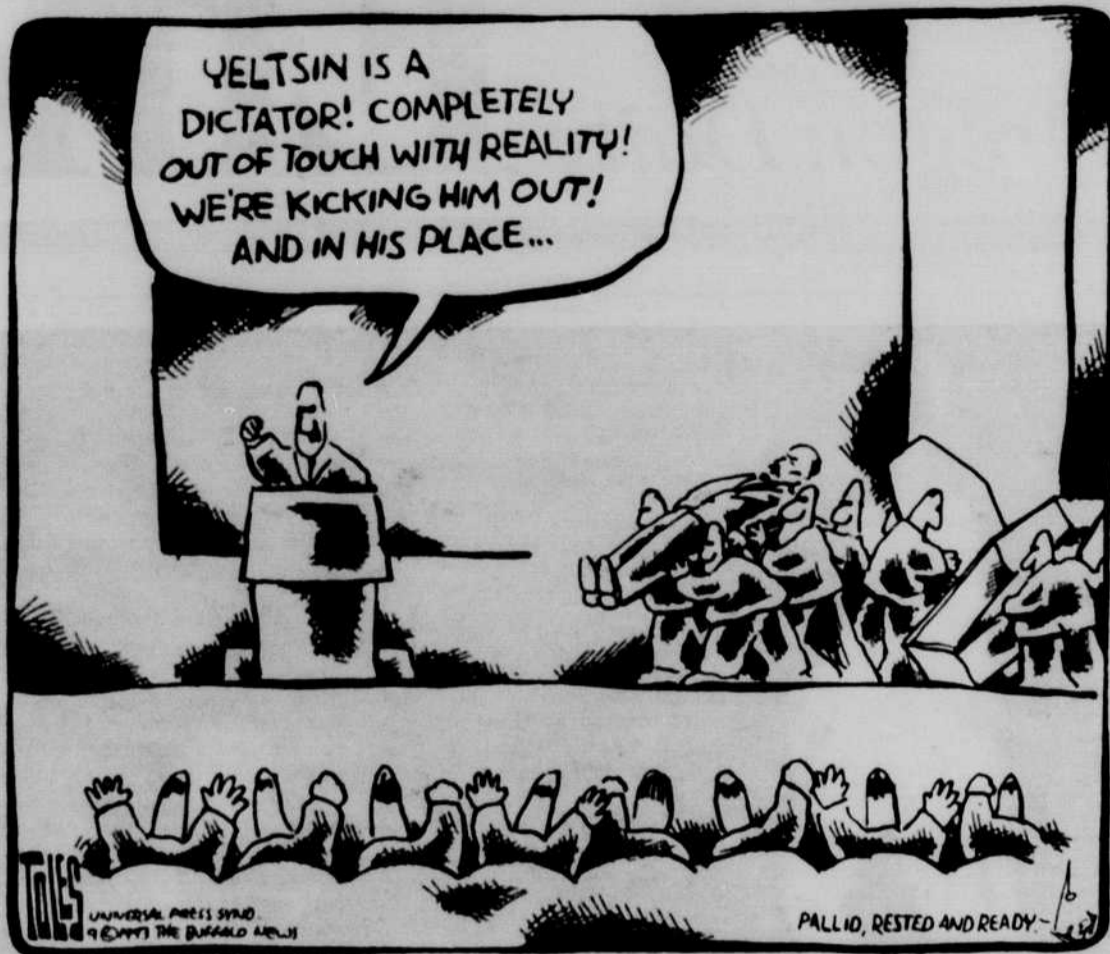
LTD reportedly preferred that course of action, but agreed to build a new station after the University objected, arguing that the expansion of the original station would take up too much extra space between the University Computing Center and the street — space that was apparently deemed more valuable than the parking that was lost when the new station was built.

On the upside, one apparent benefit of the new station is an enlarged bike-parking area, which is certainly a worthwhile addition, as anyone who has tried to park a bike on 13th Avenue will attest. But why a new bus station had to be a part of the deal isn't immediately clear.

Fortunately, most of the funding (90 percent) for this new project came from a federal grant, with the remaining portion being divided between the city, LTD and the University. So at least we can rest easy that the cost of this improvement won't be passed on to us in the form of higher tuition.

The alleviation of bus congestion and ease of service to the south-side neighborhoods is another objective of the new station. Bus traffic coming up 13th can be overwhelming. Yet bus traffic is not being alleviated, just rerouted. And with a new station, there is the very real possibility that there will be even more buses. The congestion will still be there, with the only difference being that students will now have to dodge buses turning to the right as well as to the left at the corner of 13th and Kincaid.

If the existing station right down the block had been enlarged, or the two combined elsewhere, then no parking spots would have been lost. Yes, the majority of the cost was a grant, but there are many things that money can be spent on to improve our transit system. After all, it seems that there are many more people searching for a parking spot for their car than people looking for a place to park their bodies and wait for the bus.



LETTERS

Lottery's losers

Did you know ... No Oregon Lottery tickets are printed in Oregon? They come from Georgia.

None of the Megabucks or Powerball terminals are produced in Oregon? They're from Rhode Island.

None of the video poker games are made in Oregon? Rhode Island, Illinois, Montana and Nevada.

In fact, more than 80 percent of the lottery's dollars for goods and services are spent outside of our state!

And all of this from a state agency whose mission statement includes "... the creation of jobs and economic development in Oregon."

When an Oregon business anticipates a need and does try to meet the requirements of the lottery, as one Oregon firm did

with video poker games, the lottery arranges the bidding process to guarantee that only their pre-selected bidders will qualify.

Now the lottery is requesting proposals for a "New Generation" of video machines to replace the existing ones, and based on past experience, we'll be importing these new machines too! Oh well, there's another \$50 million in jobs shipped out of state by bureaucrats in Salem who are supposed to be creating jobs and economic development here in Oregon.

The state Senate is about to confirm a new lottery director to replace Jim Davey, who left Oregon for a lucrative job with a Montana manufacturer of video poker games, which happens to be the largest supplier of these games to the Oregon Lottery. Imagine that!

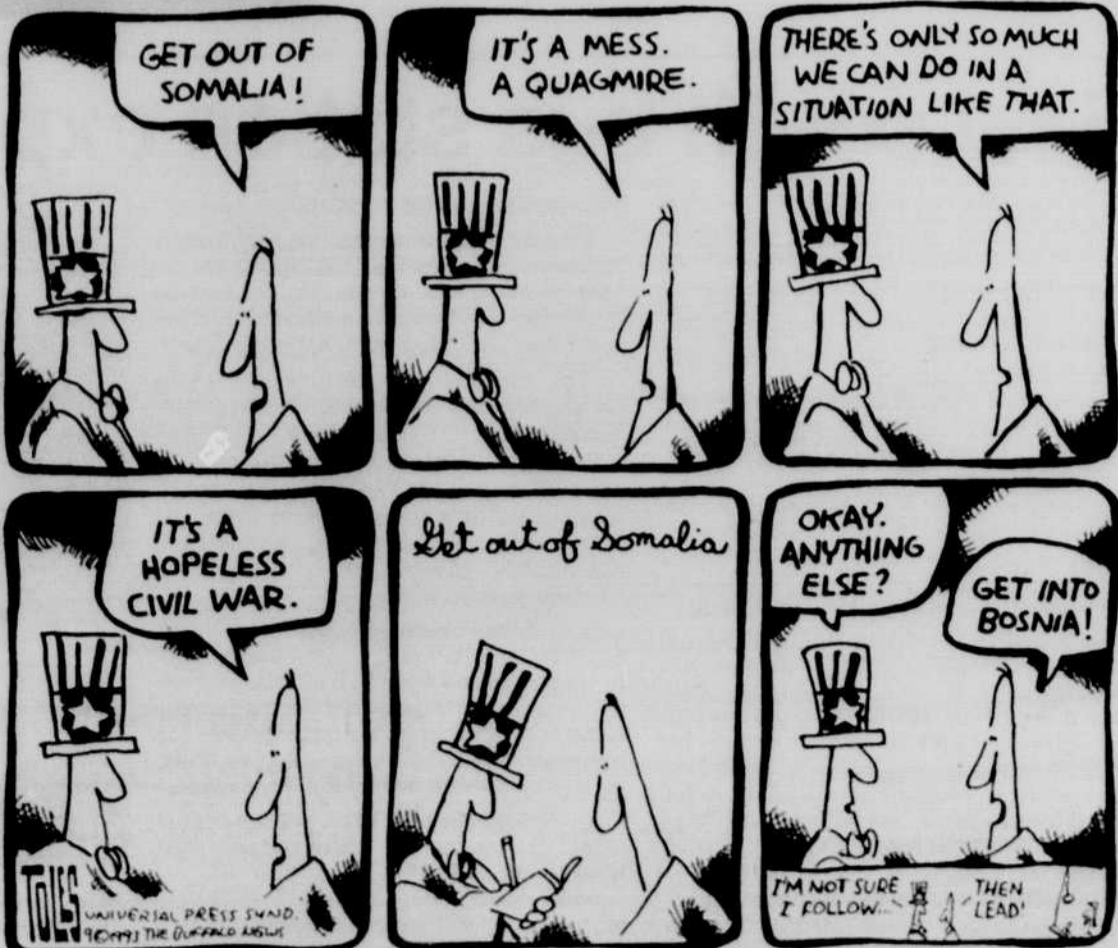
Oregonians deserve a better role in lottery operations than just being suckers with cash to feed the state's gambling habit.

Stu Rasmussen
Oregon Lottery Games

Special thanks

On behalf of Douglas Kenecht and myself, I would like to thank all those who participated in the World Party, which took place Sept. 25. The event was a great success, and it would not have happened if it were not for the extra effort and hard work of those international and American students who helped out with this event. I would like to give special thanks to every single individual who made this night happen. Thank you and have a great academic year.

Vida Talebi
Student Orientation Staff



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