

■ LETTERS

**Newsworthy**

About O.J., the key word is nice effort on the commentary (ODE, Jan. 26), but it's already been said 46 times. So if you want to deal with issues about the O.J. case, go at something significant. Everybody agrees the media have covered it too much. Everyone knows people are cashing in on it. Everyone knows O.J. has great lawyers. Better than the average Frank could afford.

You wonder why this is "still garnering so much of the public's attention." The answer is that it's actually not, but the media have covered it big the last few days because the trial actually started. Opening statements were going on. The most important part of the trial. All the evidence mapped out. All the defense's alibi suggestion. Seven months' worth of answers laid all out on the table in a few days. And don't worry, the stories will retreat right back into pages three and four once opening statements are done.

There's plenty of important, relevant issues to deal about this case. Things like the importance of getting a search warrant, collection of evidence and how much of an advantage does a rich accused murderer really have over a poor accused murderer? How exactly could the media ruin someone's chance at a fair trial? Do *Hard Copy*, Connie Chung and the *LA Times* get to present evidence to the jury. No service.

And beyond that, the case itself.

Most people are way above following this trial. If so, at least know why you think you are.

Reading about this trial is not

supposed to "make us better people." But it can make us more educated people. Educated better on how the system works and what reforms need to be made. Of course you guys are just going to sit back and let the courts decide. What if they decide wrong?

What if they decide wrong because the police fed up too much of the collection of evidence (evidence that was almost thrown out because they didn't get a search warrant on time; don't they teach that on day one of police academy?). What if they decide wrong because Jonnie Cochran is better at working a jury than Marcia Clark? Odds are, this case is going to hinge on things like that.

And so while everybody's still complaining about media coverage and Marcia Clark's six-month-old hairdo story, there's a court battle underway with a chance to educate millions of people. And that's newsworthy.

Garth Meyer  
Visual Design

**Open Willamette?**

Here we go again on the Willamette Street opening! You say both business and customers will benefit. Just which businesses? There have not been many since the city planners let Sears and The Bon move out to the suburbs (like everywhere in the United States), leaving a few select shops which continue to do O.K. (Bookmark). The parking structures are each one block away with one free hour of parking, enough to do most business or restaurant eating. I used the reopened Olive Street as a convenient

passageway through town, but the fact of it being open does not tempt me to stop on the mall. (Only 14 parking spaces were created there.) Why would Willamette, when there is no destination?

The city was never interested in any ideas for really improving downtown. Opening up a street does not bring prosperity, nor does it draw people to town. It is a gimmick that uses our tax money to give the same contractors work again for "improvements." Ed Aster's return and his money are involved for selfish reasons, since he bought more real estate on speculation. Just where does Willamette Street go? Into a dead end at 7th Avenue. A real improvement!

Yes, the fountain has to go! No question on that, but why all the lovely trees and other good things that made Willamette a pretty street? Olive Street was supposed to be beautiful according to the architectural drawings, but it certainly is no beauty spot and the trees are chintzy. Why use urban renewal money when it's only for a street the Chamber of Commerce wants, but will not renew anything for the people or anything that is "old."

The community needs housing desperately and this is where the money should go. Why the Commissioners want to spend their road fund money on that scheme is a puzzle. They would do more good for more of the public by helping the city to resurface some of the appalling thoroughfares.

This is a boondoggle and fight for power!

Hilde K. Cherry  
Eugene

**Whip Womack**

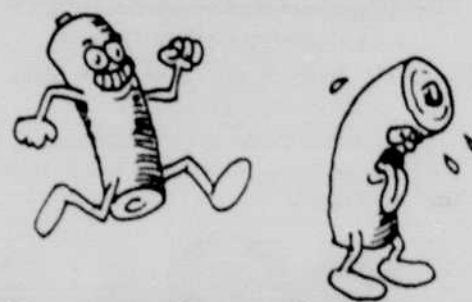
How dare this impudent brat declare our "military can't fight two wars." What has America come to when my tax dollars help this perfidious youth subvert our nation? Insulting America's determination and commitment to defend our land, women and children. Giving comfort to our enemies. "Womack the red" needs a good horse whipping!

The proud institution of the U.S. military spends far over

\$300 billion a year (the true amount remains highly classified/obscured/hidden from traitors like you!) ensuring our safety. Mr. Womack needs to get his facts together before uttering such double-crossing ignorance. Seventy billion dollars? This meager amount would only be sufficient to destroy our enemies/planet several times over. We, true Americans, would never stand for such frailty.

Mark Whitson  
Eugene

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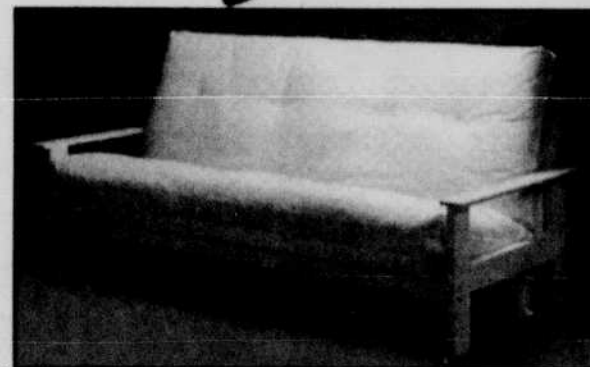
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