

State's deck stacked on gambling permits

OUR OPINION Native Americans operate casinos, other cities should be allowed to as well

Another American Indian gambling casino will open next week near the town of Grand Ronde, Ore. The casino "Spirit Mountain" stands in the same area where hundreds of Indians were forced to settle by U.S. soldiers some 150 years ago.

Maybe some of the needed income this gaming center will bring to the Grand Ronde Tribe will help erase a tiny portion of that heartache from so long ago.

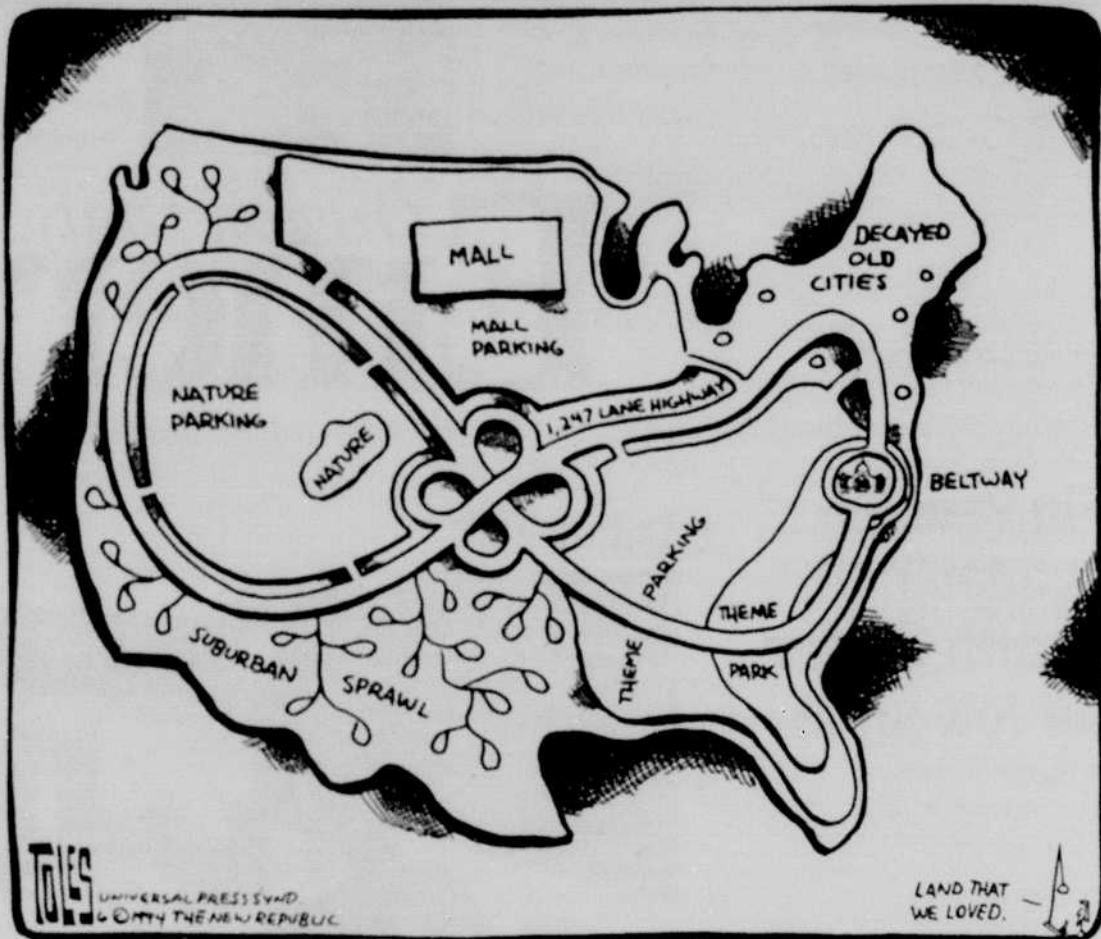
The tribe expects the \$26 million casino to finance economic growth and create social programs that will

foster quality-of-life improvements for the Indian community. It will probably help tribal members escape the vicious spiral of poverty that many have struggled with.

The casino will also help the tribe maintain their sovereignty and will provide revenue that will contribute to their ancient cultural customs and practices.

With the existence of Indian-run casinos and state-controlled keno and lottery, Oregon has created a hypocritical position for itself.

To be fair, the state should extend the right to open gaming centers to other Oregon cities, but not give the tax-exempt status enjoyed by Oregon's Native Americans.



Since sex can now kill, education reform vital

OUR OPINION U.S. should evaluate sex education in schools

The world of sex education as we know it is going through some needed change.

Some young people get the famous "birds and bees" talk from mom or dad, some find out about it from friends and there might even be some who are "outside the knowledge curve" until they find themselves in bed with another person.

American public education has tried to educate young people about sex, but the numbers of unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and victims of the HIV virus are still too

high.

Eugene School District 4-J, as part of a state law, has developed an "age-appropriate" health education curriculum for elementary, middle and high school grades. The programs cover all the normal instruction in HIV and AIDS awareness, responsible sexual behavior, and the usual, but there's also something new.

Now, abstinence is emphasized as one sure way to avoid STDs, and young people will learn to have compassion for those who are sick with AIDS.

Finally, since sex education is still a controversial subject for many parents, 4-J is trying to bring parents into the education circle.

LETTERS

Senate sell-out

Many thanks to the senators and congressmen who are working diligently to gut our air and water quality laws, not to mention relaxing guidelines on land-use and development.

We need leaders with this kind of vision — a vision that entails a megalopolis-type sprawl with industries spewing toxicity and filth into water and air without those distracting regulations that might cut into profit margins.

Many of these same politicians have been heavily influenced by corporations that have rented them with large campaign contributions. They are working overtime to open the last 5 percent of the old growth ecosystems to logging with so-called salvage-rider bills, which are exempt from environmental laws.

Why whine about a few 500 to 1000-year-old trees and the last vestiges of majestic beauty in our world? Let's finish the rape job.

Develop, exploit and move on. Will we ever learn, or are we a culture so non-imaginative and dim-witted that we have to sacrifice quality of life and irreplaceable national treasures and call it an either/or issue of economy versus environment? Currently in northern California, one of the last ancient redwood enclaves in the world containing several trees more than 2000-years-old has lost court protection. How many sustainable jobs will this create?

Finally, there is a proposal from the good senators to sell off our national parks. What vision! Imagine Yellowstone and Yosemite filled with Dumbo the Elephant rides, laser light shows, and fast food restaurants. God help us before these lunatics destroy everything worth saving.

Gerry Rempel
Graduate Music

Corruption

The Cold War was a titanic struggle of good versus evil — of democracy and freedom

against godless communism.

The reality is quite different. How can U.S. support of brutal right-wing dictators such as Somoza, the Shah, Mobutu, Marcos, Trujillo, Pinochet and Suharto be equated with democracy and freedom?

How can the massacre of over .5 million members of the Indonesian Communist Party and their families be called anything but one of the great human-rights violations of the 20th century?

I have a different theory. The Cold War was a struggle of the corporations to retain control of cheap labor and natural resources and to prevent socialism from succeeding anywhere because it threatens their tremendous wealth and power. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the passage of NAFTA and GATT, the corporations are more powerful than ever.

How were the American people so easily deceived?

The corporations own the media and can promulgate the fairy tales of the ruling elite 24 hours a day.

The greatest propaganda achievement of human history was convincing the American people that believers in a utopian ideology like communism were evil devils.

The Cold War bankrupted the Soviet Union and put this country four trillion dollars in debt. This folly occurred while millions of people starved to death, and the environment was polluted and destroyed.

An objective observer from another planet would have to conclude that there is no intelligent life on earth. Beam me up, Scotty!

Gary Sudborough
Bellflower, Calif.

Sssh!

I hope University Director of Student Housing Mike Eyster doesn't find get wind of Cindy Long's front-page story (ODE, Oct. 6). Long refers to the magnanimous gift made to the

School of Architecture and Allied Arts as the "third largest donation in the University's history."

My concern for keeping this information from Mr. Eyster is that the gift includes the 4,500-square-foot Watzek House. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was designed by the late Portland architect John Yeon. Recently, a set of structures that had also been designated as an historic site was crushed to splinters.

Mr. Eyster demanded the site cleared for the construction of a new housing facility that will rent for at least three times the cost of the historic property. That historic housing was known as the Amazon Family Housing Complex and it was designed by a world-renowned architect, Pietro Belluschi.

My fear is that if Mr. Eyster hears of the Watzek house, designed in the antediluvian era of 1936, it too will go the way of Amazon. Mum's the word!

Karl G. Sorg
Eugene

Correction

At the October 11 meeting of the Student Senate, I presented a special request to pay an overdue bill from the Faculty Club incurred by the Family Center on December 4, 1993. The Family Center, which has since been disbanded, never took action to pay the \$425.47 that it owed. Unfortunately, at the time of my presentation to the Student Senate I was unaware of the efforts of the Faculty Club to acquire compensation, and I inaccurately stated that the Family Center had never been billed. This is entirely untrue; the Faculty Club has provided copies of several bills sent to the Family Center and is in no way responsible for the lack of payment. I apologize to the Faculty Club for any inconvenience my error may have caused.

Zachary Kelton
ASUO Vice President

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