

Anti-growth sentiments aren't unique to Eugene

■ **OUR OPINION:** Colorado's attempt to push back immigrants won't work

Welcome to beautiful Boulder, Colo.

Don't stay. Citizens in Boulder and five other Colorado cities are sick of big-city folk moving in and destroying their bucolic way of life. Voters went to the polls in the Rocky Mountain state Tuesday to decide whether they should limit the number of commercial building permits available to would-be builders.

In Aspen, slow-growth activists are trying to prevent the airport from expanding its runway to welcome more out-of-state skiers.

Does any of this sound familiar?

Eugene is not alone in its desire to keep the city small. As urban states such as California have become overpopulated and overpriced, many people are flocking to scenic, remote and inexpensive states for some permanent R and R. So far, Eugene has elected to not widen the Ferry Street Bridge and seems dead-set on keeping Hyundai out of our wetlands.

It's not clear, however, if any of that will prevent the rising tide of interstate immigrants crashing into our borders.

Boulder put a cap on residential housing back in 1976 that is still in effect. What it has done, however, is increase the number of people living outside the city and commuting to work in the booming telecommunications industry. So while the Eugene-size city may not be overcrowded, 40,000 cars are snarling to get into its

serene confines every day. Proof that even if you don't build it, they will still come.

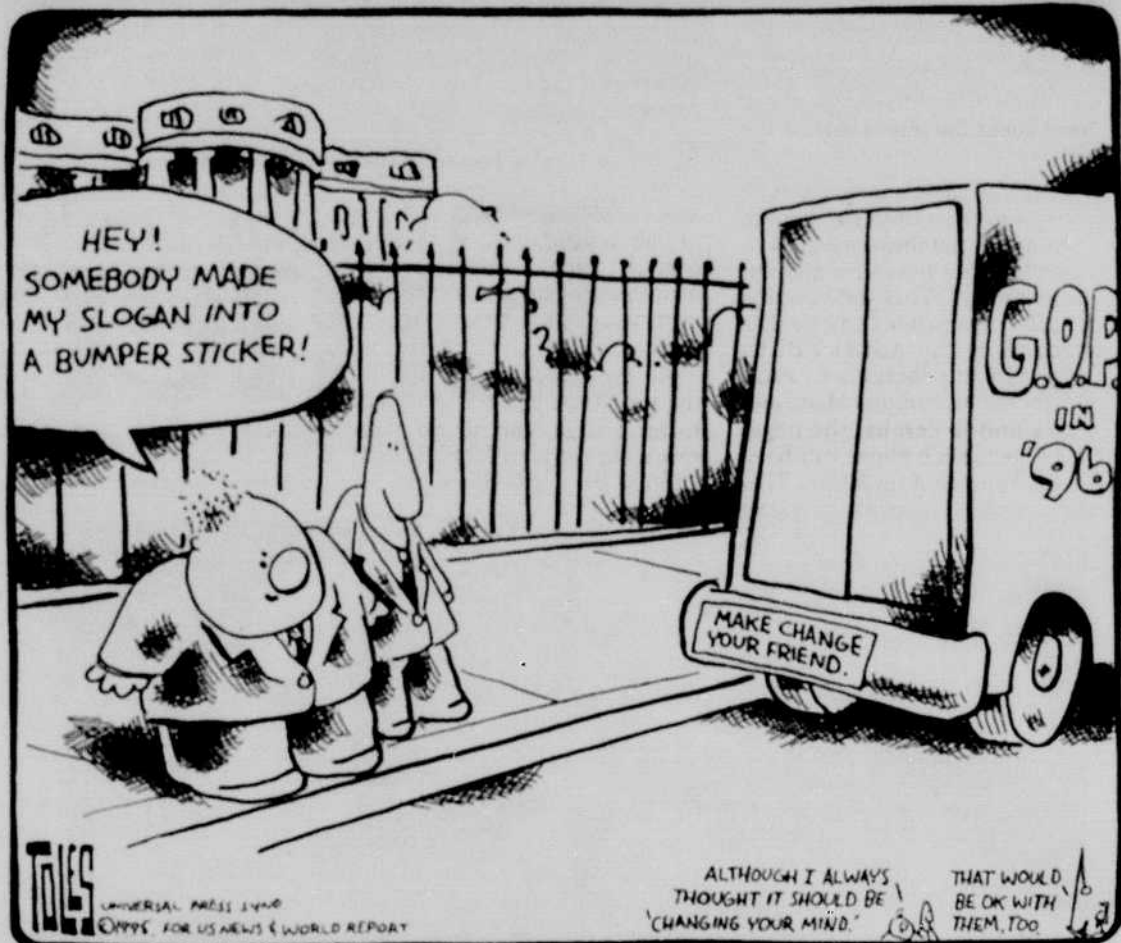
Like it or not, the scenic West's secret is out, and it's impossible to put the genie back in the bottle. What we have to decide, and soon, is how we are going to deal with new arrivals instead of spending so much energy and ire on preventing them from coming.

If Eugeneans don't want increased traffic and pollution, not expanding the bridge won't lessen the number of cars. Rather, the city should take a closer look at what it can do to encourage people to use other modes of transportation.

More bike paths are a good idea, but it rains so often here that the idea of pedaling to work in a down-pour is enough to push most environmentalists back into their Volvos. Rather, it's time to take a serious (and tax-funded) look at improving bus service.

Currently, bus service is infrequent enough to give many citizens an excuse for hopping behind the wheel. Faster buses that show up at more stops more often would make it easier for people to get where they want to go quickly. If the number of buses doesn't grow, neither will the number of drivers.

There is one possible deterrent, however. Increased population usually means increased tax revenue. Unfortunately, Oregonians lowered property taxes a few years ago. Perhaps it's time to raise property taxes again. It might deter people from moving here, and who knows? Perhaps we could actually fund our schools with the revenue.



Potpourri: Politicians, pundits and polls

As a political writer, I try to keep my eyes on current events as much as possible. I form bits and pieces of works in my head, and when one fleshes out in a somewhat decent fashion, voila! I have a column.

The last few weeks have been somewhat problematic, however, because of a flurry of information that I feel must somehow reach the page. So this week, for your reading pleasure, I give you my random musings on Washington.

Bob Dole: As the Republican front-runner continues to shore up his right flank, he looks more and more like Pete "Flip" Wilson, the California governor who recently dropped from the GOP presidential race.

Dole has now changed his position on the issues of gay rights, affirmative action, gun control, Medicare — the list continues.

It is obvious to the rank-and-file of the Republican Party that Dole's newfound conservatism is simply a defensive tactic against a Colin Powell presidential bid.

Not a single poll shows Dole beating Powell in a head-to-head competition, and the Senate Majority Leader hopes that the far-right of the party can help him squeak out a victory. Let's hope that he doesn't count on it.

Pat Buchanan: This gentleman is the main reason that Dole cannot count on the foot soldiers of the Christian Right in the upcoming presidential race. Ralph Reed's and Pat Robertson's dirty little secret is now slowly being let out of the bag.

Most Christian conservatives are pro-life, anti-gay, working-class people — voters who would be Democrats if it were not for social issues. Buchanan gives these people the generosity of New Deal isolationism and the austerity of old-school Christianity all in one package.

Buchanan figured out the secret of the Christian far right long ago; while Dole and the "revolutionaries" of the House have attempted to balance the budget and reform Medicare, Buchanan has understood that this faction's agenda has nothing to do with finances, economics or even politics.

Its principles are based solely upon pushing its version of morality on the general public.

Dole has just started campaigning toward them recently, but Buchanan has been there from the beginning. Although Dole thinks differently, the Christian right will not be fooled. They know that Dole's swerve to the right is simple political opportunism.

Ron Wyden: In a local Senate campaign,

Ron Wyden is running a fine Republican campaign; it's just too bad he is a Democrat.

Wyden has stated in one of his commercials that some of the main points of his philosophy are sending power from Washington back to Oregon and being tough on crime. He's running a fine Republican campaign; it's just too bad he is a Democrat.

Newt Gingrich: It is ironic that Gingrich is the absolute proof of his main philosophical theorem. This theorem, as most of us know, is that there is too much power based in Washington and not enough based locally.

Recent polls have shown that Newt's approval ratings are far below that of Clinton or Dole, and that if he ran for president, as he is thinking of doing, he wouldn't have a prayer against Dole, Clinton, or General Powell.

How is it that someone who is popular only in a small, wealthy suburb of Georgia and among a few key House members has so much influence nationally? Simple. Too much power is concentrated in Washington.

Gingrich is proof that the Washington machine serves not the American people, but the machine itself.

Alexander, Dornan, Forbes, Gramm, Keyes, Lugar and Specter: Do any of these names look familiar? I didn't think so.

Guess what? All of them would like to be your next president.

Yitzhak Rabin: To the most serious matter of the last few weeks, I would like to pay my respects to Rabin, who I hope will be treated more kindly by history than he was by the many detractors in the political field and the media.

We should remember that like all leaders, and all people for that matter, the Israeli Prime Minister was not perfect. But as far as statesmen go, he was one of the finest that we have seen in our lifetime.

Rabin was a key player in a fragile peace that was politically risky and not altogether popular.

As we watch Gephardt, Clinton, Dole and Gingrich bend statistics and follow every whim of their pollsters to buttress their popularity, we should remember that leadership is not about votes. It is about an eye to the future.

This is what Rabin brought to his people, and those of the world, through his central involvement in the Middle East peace process. He will be missed dearly.

Primo A.J. Fontana, a senior majoring in economics, is a columnist for the Emerald.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3158 EUGENE OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the Emerald editorial board; signed columns represent the opinion of the columnist.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: David Thorn

Managing Editor: Lori Bettineski **Design Director:** Steven Asbury

Night Editor: Colleen Pohlig

Community: Marceline Edwards, editor, Abe Estrada, Melissa LeBahn, Samantha Martin

Higher Education: Cindy Long, editor, Regina Brown, Mara Stine, Brian Womack

Student Activities: Amy Columbo, editor, Ashley Bach, Jennifer Carter, Doug Irving

Sports: Trevor Kearney, editor, Mark McTyre, assistant editor, Andrea DeYoung, Pete Schneider, Chris Stewart

Entertainment/Supplements: Anne Moser-Kornfeld, editor, Kim Weiss, assistant editor

In-Depth: Colleen Pohlig, editor **Freelance:** Keijo Hunter, editor

On-Line: Joshua Olson, editor

Editorial: David Bartlett and Sean Smith, editors; Kelly Andersson, Jesse Bohrer-Ciancy, Jean M. Bond, Keith Cunningham, Primo A.J. Fontana, Gayle Forman, Larry Haft, Kay Krautscheid, Songa Sherwood

Copy Desk: Sherry Rainey, copy chief, Paige Bills, Anna Beth Grimes, Karl Leigh Hastings, Paul Van Sickle

Photography: Natalie Montgomery, editor, Andrew Brackensick, Aimee Butterfield, Melody Conroy, Elena Gerber, Shannon Kilduff, Matthew Stiffner

Graphics: Dennis Bolt, Matt Garlon

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Advertising: Becky Merchant, director, Anne Amador, Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Justin Gober, Nikki Harper, Heather Johnston, Kelly Lyon, Sarah Mitchell, Jeremy Mason, Tom Mittenstaedt, Jennifer Neel, Trina Shanaman

Production: Michele Ross, manager, Ingrid White, coordinator, Shawna Abele, Rachel Cunningham, Laura Daniel, Nicole Herzmark, Carrie Jones, Tara Knight, Molly McCanta, Carly Schlenker, Joli Setten, Allison Stormo, Serena Williams, Michael Young

Business: Kathy Carbone, supervisor, Judy Connolly

Classified: Tara Gaultney, manager

Distribution: Jeff Johnson, John Long, Joy Sears

Newsroom: 346-5511

Display Advertising: 346-3712

Business Office: 346-5512

Classified Advertising: 346-4343