

COMMENTARY

Letters to the editor

Don't waste money on 20-54

Please treat 20-54 propaganda as junk mail soliciting your hard-earned dollar. If it "promises more than it can deliver," don't waste your money.

The West Eugene Parkway is no more a "solution" than throwing gasoline on fire. Solutions to sprawl are not found by fueling more sprawl. They require step-by-step internal improvements. If surgeons bypassed congested organs to supply peripheral cancers, their patients would die.

That's why the 1999 Oregon Highway Plan directs "ODOT and local jurisdictions to do everything possible to protect and improve the efficiency of the highway system before adding new highway facilities," ranking new bypasses as the *lowest* priority.

That's why the efforts of planners, elected officials, developers and citizens in TransPlan funded only WEP phase one, ranking the others 15th, 20th and last of the 28 currently nonfunded road projects in Lane County.

That's why the Federal Highway Administration ruled you can't start a bypass unless you have money to finish it.

The 1986 vote wasn't to fund the WEP, only to approve a route that's proved unworkable. Now

developers are trying to bypass prioritization of your tax dollars by buying your vote for their short term financial gain, not for Lane County's livability.

The WEP is *not* needed; it will destroy parklands that technology cannot fully mitigate and requires 4-5 times as much money as is currently funded. Guess whose pocket they'll pick for that?

Vote no on 20-54. Use your limited tax dollars on higher priority transportation improvements.

Rich Coolman
Eugene

Anthrax cartoon shows poor taste

Last week you ran a cartoon in your paper (ODE, 10/19) where a person was eating some powdered donuts, and a nearby onlooker in return shouted: "Anthrax!"

Hahahaha. It is hard to believe something done with such poor taste could be shown in a daily campus newspaper, not to mention it had no comedic value whatsoever.

I expected that since the Oregon Daily Emerald is at least some sort of a newspaper, they would have known that at the time of the cartoon, one person had already died from the virus, and since then, two more people have died. Real funny stuff.

Josh Brown
junior
sociology

America's defense is legitimate, right

GUEST COMMENTARY

Brandon Oberlin

When the people of the United States look in the mirror, what they see is a friend of the world. I am stunned that George Beres ("To find the real enemy, we need to look in the mirror," ODE, 10/12) and others like him see an enemy of humanity instead. I cannot keep quiet about this any longer: The logical flaws of the "peaceniks" and their intellectual allies need to be brought to light.

First, I'd like to discuss Beres' position. Beres indirectly asserts that, a) the United States has perpetrated great evil upon the world and therefore, b) "had it coming" with regard to the recent slaughter. It should also be noted that hidden within his unbalanced view of current events is the insinuation that Bush was not lawfully elected and that U.S. corporations are to blame for the world's evils. He goes on to project Bush's term, "faceless coward," onto the American people.

Most Americans won't deny that the U.S. government has made terrible mistakes and still does. Weigh these errors against the good that the United States does for the world and a more balanced picture emerges. Remember World Wars I and II? In both cases, the American people selflessly donated thousands of soldiers' lives and billions of dollars to free other people from tyranny.

Penicillin is a gift to the world from the United States. So is the transistor (which made computers possible). The U.S. government has forgiven more Third World debts than most countries ever loan out. The United States is the

world leader in humanitarian aid. When there is a natural disaster anywhere in the world, it is Americans who are there first offering medical care and money.

There are millions of people alive today who wouldn't be if it weren't for the perseverance of American scientists who developed cures for diseases and the investment by American corporations that produce them. Americans are not cowards, nor are they the enemy. Even suggesting that Americans are in the same category as the terrorists is an intellectual crime.

A recap of recent events: Thousands of innocent Americans were slaughtered at the hands of murderous sadists. The repressive government harboring and sanctioning the primary suspect refuses to turn him over for trial. President Bush gives the Taliban almost a month to recant before taking military action. During this time, food is airlifted to hungry Afghan citizens at the United States' expense. Al-Qaida (Osama bin Laden's organization) makes still more threats against innocent Americans. An apparent (and so far unsuccessful) bioterrorism campaign is waged upon American civilians. What is there to think about?

It is the legitimate place of any government to defend its people. It is time to defend America both intellectually and militarily. This is the first time in my life that I have supported a U.S. war: I have thought all the others were questionable at best.

This time it's different. This is defense of my people. I would be honored to die defending the generous, hardworking, courageous, peace-loving, decent people of the United States of America. And to hell with those who don't like it.

Brandon Oberlin is a senior biology major.

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Author Events

Michael Collins

The Keepers of the Truth

Tuesday, Oct. 30th • 7:30 p.m.

Knight Library • Browsing Room

Irish-born Collins comes to the University to read from his literary thriller, *The Keepers of the Truth*, which combines a small town murder mystery with an extraordinary exploration into the death of the American dream.

Paula Prober

Ten Tips For Women Who Want To Change The World

Thursday, Nov. 1st • 7:30 p.m.

UO Bookstore • Upstairs in Book Department

Awaken your authentic self and you are on the way to changing the world! Join Eugene counselor and writer Paula Prober as she reveals the practical exercises to make this happen. Tango dancers fill the Book Department afterward!

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Tax Bill: \$88 million



Welcome to LA, Houston, Atlanta, Denver, Chicago ... and Eugene!

The West Eugene Parkway will cost \$88 - \$100 million. It won't reduce congestion.

\$88 million → The money is NOT there!

\$88 million → Slashed state budgets could mean higher tuition

\$88 million → More tax dollars when budgets are tight

\$88 million → Cancels traffic improvements throughout the city

\$88 million → Destroys wildlife habitat

Vote NO on 20-54.

Vote NO on the West Eugene Parkway.



It's Highway Robbery!

For more information, to volunteer, or to make a financial contribution, please call 686-6761 or visit our website: www.westbynorthwest.org/no20-54

Authorized and paid for by "No on 20-54 PAC" — Audrey Erickson, Treasurer

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