

# Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post  
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## War and peace and the Occupy Movement

I had this response to Wim Laven's article ("OPEN FORUM: It's important for the Occupy Movement to stay peaceful") in the December issue.

According to Wim Laven of PSU's Dep't of Conflict Resolution, "At our cores we know: whatever the problem, violence is never the solution."

I have this question for Mr. Laven: It's 1940. Hitler is rampaging through Europe, Russia, and North Africa.

He's killing Jews by the trainload in camps like Auschwitz and Dachau. The Battle of Britain is raging and there's a good possibility that Britain will fall to the Nazis.

That's the problem. What's your solution?

Michael Trigoboff  
Southwest Portland

## Headwaters Apartments should not have been subsidized by taxpayers

As a Multnomah Village resident, I am outraged to read about the City of Portland's Headwater Apartments (located in Multnomah Village).

These high-end apartments are

clearly rented to those with above average incomes and the city pays no taxes. This means that the rest of the Multnomah County residents must pay even higher property taxes to make up for slick maneuvers like this.

The city has no business being in the apartment business, high end or otherwise. Just like the City had no business building a tram for OHSU, a state university hospital.

But wait, there's more. How about those huge bills generated for allowing the homeless to camp illegally in downtown Portland?

You can bet that if any of the rest of us had tried that, we would have been booted immediately. We just keep paying for poor planning and management at the city level.

When will they stop spending the taxpayer's hard earned money on projects that are inappropriate and not the business of the city? Is there no one accountable one more time?

Patti Waitman  
Multnomah

## We must learn from our experience in Iraq

This day (December 15, 2011), the day marking the end of combat troops in Iraq, has been far too long in coming.

This misguided war should never have been fought, but today we can all celebrate that all our troops are coming home and that, after more than eight years, billions of dollars spent and thousands of lives lost, military operations have come to an end.

I have the deepest admiration for and gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform who did all we asked of them and more. We owe all of them our thanks.

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Many have lost their lives, many have returned home with profound injuries, and thousands of families have been forever impacted. We must reaffirm our commitment to standing up for them, as they stood up for us. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

We must learn from our experience in Iraq. The next step should be to accelerate our transition out of Afghanistan. It is time to bring these chapters to a close and bring our troops home."

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon)  
Washington, D.C.

## New Sellwood Bridge

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ties for this administration. We have a strong partnership with the State of Oregon."

Cogen said, "A lot of people thought that this day would never come. But it's here, and this is a project that will help people get to work and put people back to work."

According to Cogen, the bridge construction will employ 400 workers. "It will expand our transportation capacity without adding cars. When we work together we can make big things happen."

Adams said that with work about to start on another Willamette River bridge for transit, "it solidifies our position as Bridge City." Among other things it will provide new transportation options for South Portland, "The most constrained part of our city bar none," Adams said.

State Representative Carolyn Tomei said she "took pride in finding a way to get this project done. It's tremen-

dously beneficial to both sides of the river, to Multnomah and Clackamas counties." This last produced some titters and Tomei noted that she lives in Clackamas County.

State Senator Diane Rosenbaum said the project "restores my faith in our ability as a community to come together."

Jason Tell of the Oregon Department of Transportation called the process "extreme collaboration. The level of cooperation was really an impressive feat—but that alone wouldn't have got us here. It was leadership."

In this context Tell gave credit to various participants, including Adams for seeking a replacement for a facility "owned by another governmental entity."

There were also brief speeches by Madelein Adriance and Ava Martinson of Llewellyn Primary School and Riley Wolf of Sellwood Middle School. Kafoury gave thanks to the project's citizen advisory committee and to County public affairs spokesperson Mike Pullen.

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