

DOUBLE BAG IT

Men who are against abortion need to take action: either "double bag" it (i.e. use two condoms *every* time), get a vasectomy, or have sex without penetration.

If men could get pregnant, abortion would be free and indisputable. Women can never be full class citizens without the right to decide over their own bodies, all of the time.

Loren Asrael
Eugene

BIRTH TAX

I agree with Nate Brown (1/29) that we should say what we mean ("abortion" rather than "reproductive decision").

I would go further to say, yes, the fetus is both alive and, well, Homo Sapien. And beyond that, yes, the egg and sperm are alive as two primitive symbiotes who haven't yet found their mates. But I feel "human" is something we grow to become, and "soul" is a nonsense question for me. Perhaps there's no valid place to draw a line.

Would I support the right to "abortion" rather than to "reproductive decision?" I certainly would. In fact, considering that the world population is much more than it can support in the long run (many times more once we run out of oil), I'd more likely ques-

tion the right NOT to have an abortion when needed.

Let's replace our probably most common tax deduction with a tax on births (preferably in proportion to the square number of digits in one's bank account). That might send a message that would help reduce the number of abortions.

Dan Robinson
Eugene

LOVE'S LABOR LOST

The Eugene-Springfield community has been greatly privileged for 30 years to have had in our midst a supplier of fresh vegetable and fruit juices.

We owe a huge measure of thanks to the folks who labored long and hard, at minimum pay, to ensure that Genesis Juice Company survived as long as it did. It was truly a labor of love.

Although we mourn Genesis' passing, it is helpful to realize that yes, "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

Gerald Morsello
Eugene

MISSING THE BUS

LTD (1/28 *The Register-Guard*) is trying to destroy the #22 for the third time in four

years without the courtesy of notifying or working with the Crest Drive Citizens Neighborhood Group. In 2001, after proposing a school bus to SEHS, they cut two of our six commuter buses. They promised this would last two years. In 2002, they proposed elimination, then the school bus, and finally axed the earliest bus, allowing some commuters and students with after-school activities a chance to continue riding.

LTD's service cuts fail to support their Mission Statement: "Delivering reliable public transit service; Offering innovative service that reduces dependency on the automobile; and Providing progressive leadership for the community's transportation needs." By forcing neighborhoods to access service only through Park & Ride locations, they at best make people rely on autos, and more likely lose them from ridership altogether. Despite our pleas, LTD has made NO attempts to encourage ridership in our neighborhood, or to help us reduce our neighborhood's future dependence on the auto.

LTD Board chairwoman Wylie is quoted that service cuts balance their "responsibility to plan to the future." She and their website fail to reveal the millions being devoted to Bus Rapid Transit's "image" vehicle, designed to replace what are already their most

popular arterial routes, NOT to improve neighborhood service. This is wrong. Please tell them so, either at their upcoming open house (Feb. 26), public hearings (March 17), or on their website www.ltd.org

Richard B Coolman MD MPH
Developmental Pediatrician
Eugene

WITHOUT A CAUSE

The mainstream media, including Eugene's only daily paper, keep using the words "rebel" and "insurgent" to identify people in Iraq who oppose U.S. hegemony there.

A rebel or insurgent is someone who opposes a legitimate government. There is no legitimate government in Iraq — only an occupying power, placed there by military might. (One of the daily's guest columnists and at least two letters to the editor have already pointed this out — obviously in vain.)

Jim Bates
Deadwood

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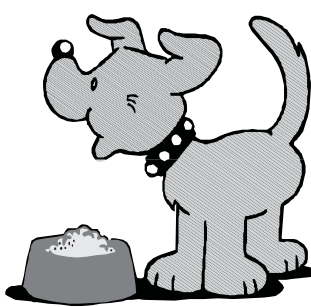
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