

**ROAD WORRIES**

As if holiday traffic wasn't enough on Coburg Road! I witnessed the stop-and-go traffic and a huge exodus of cars on to Coburg Road because of another accident on Beltline. I understand there are accidents on Beltline almost daily, especially during the holidays. Beltline has proven to be an unsafe highway that should be first for highway funding in Lane County.

Sections of Highway 105 will be partially closed in 2005 for repairs. This will add additional traffic on Beltline and demand slower speed limits until we can invest in the needed improvements. If you've experienced accidents or stalled traffic on Beltline and you want safer travel, please call your city and county elected officials. Meanwhile I plan to avoid Beltline. I also plan to speak up and urge safety as first priority for road building funds — not more money spent on the \$180 million boondoggle of West Eugene Parkway.

*Ruth Duemler  
Eugene*

**OFFENSIVE MESSAGE**

As a whole, "The 700 Club" is a relatively harmless "show" with born-again testimonials, featured hard-luck stories, and recommended health care advice. But it is the Pat Robertson news segment spins that offend so many of us.

The man has an agenda. He portrays the Christian movement as a still-persecuted first century minority clinging on to faith that faces total extinction from heathens, liberals, and progressives (ie. the Romans). He is pro-war, defender of corporate dominance, and hardly, if ever, mentions civil rights.

One wonders why we never hear the passage: "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter heaven?" Perhaps because it would reveal what those who stand behind this ilk are in store for.

Pat is on a crusade to stop those who would keep the church and state apart. The remedy would be to enact new laws and change the Constitution to appease the heavens. Remember that Pat was on the front lines demanding impeachment for Clinton's sexual indiscretion and first to accept and then forgive Bush for misleading us into a war with Iraq.

Mortals like Pat Robertson, Jerry Fallwell, and the like are soiling the good name of Jesus by playing armchair politics within their bully pulpit media outlets.

I recommend that everyone tune in to the first 10 minutes of the "700 Club" to see this abomination for yourselves. Notice the subtle gay bashing, the willingness to destroy people and things, and the defense of all things Republican. Love only pops up when the donation drive clicks in.

*Woody Woodmark  
Eugene*

**SHEER MADNESS**

I recently learned that the IRS has given a tax deduction to a man for his sex change operation. This is wrong and the IRS has unwittingly become a pawn in the hands of the homosexual agenda.

Reputable psychiatrists and therapists understand that the gender identity disorder

known as gender dysphoria is a mental problem — not a condition that warrants drastic and life-altering surgery.

Dr. Paul McHugh, the distinguished service professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University recently wrote a lengthy article in *First Things* (11/04) about the practice of sexual reassignment surgery — and called it "collaborating with madness."

He convinced Johns Hopkins to stop doing all sex change operations because physicians and psychiatrists are realizing that this is a mental illness that needs therapy — not surgery. By giving a tax deduction to a sexually confused man who thinks he's a woman, your organization is collaborating with madness as well. This person should have received psychiatric help, not the surgical mutilation of his body!

The decision will encourage other sexually confused men and women and even teenagers to choose surgery instead of therapy to cure what is a mental condition!

Please have this decision reversed immediately!

*Billy Gruwell  
Springfield*

**ROOT CAUSES**

It is time that we start to address the root causes of global instability. Fighting global poverty, hunger and disease helps make the world more stable and secure. Helping people help themselves provides a way to find real solutions to these problems.

Nearly half the world's population lives on less than \$2 a day. Every day nearly a billion people go to bed hungry; 30,000 children die from preventable illnesses; and another 5,000 children become orphans due to HIV/AIDS. And yet the U.S. currently spends a mere 1/10th of 1 percent of the U.S. annual budget on humanitarian assistance.

The U.S. can and should lead in contributing to the development of more stable and self-reliant societies. These efforts are central to promoting peace and greater security at home and abroad.

Development programs have worked effectively in the past three decades to help cut infant mortality in half, increase the life expectancy rate from 46 to 63 years and increase the number of children in primary school from 48 percent to 78 percent. We can and must do more. I call on our government to help fight global poverty, hunger and disease by making a commitment to spend at least 1 percent of the annual budget on humanitarian and development assistance.

*Lou Enge  
Eugene*

**SIMPLE SOLUTION**

The past year has witnessed major national wins and losses. The Republicans won by retaining political power in the November elections. The Democrats won because they are not stuck with the losing battle for a democratic Iraq.

On the domestic front, we've been losing the battle for our health, with obesity assuming epidemic proportions. We've been losing the battle for our environment, with more animal wastes dumped in our water supplies. And, we've been losing the battle for our soul, with more and more an-

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