

PETER DeFAZIO**AN INVITATION TO A TOWN HALL MEETING**

Please come to one of my town hall meetings to share your thoughts and concerns about Social Security. Look for the location nearest you below.

Eugene**Saturday, February 5**

10:30 - 11:30 AM

EWEB Training Center and

Community Room

500 E. 4th Avenue

Springfield**Saturday, February 5**

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Springfield City Council

Chambers

225 5th Street

For more information, please call 1-800-944-9603.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

surgery.

The screening process is called the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care. First, you have to be diagnosed with gender identity disorder (is it really GID, or do you have schizophrenia and your voices say your body is sinful?). Of course only a psychiatrist or psychologist can diagnose GID, and that requires therapy sessions — a minimum of three months of weekly therapy sessions before you can be recommended for hormones or an ID change. And a GID diagnosis isn't the end of the line. It's just the beginning of things that have to happen before a recommendation for irreversible surgery is given. The most current Standards of Care can be found online at www.hbgda.org/socv6.cfm.

Finally, Billy, pretend you wake up every day in the opposite sex's body, expected to always wear their clothes, move, speak, sit, walk and act as they do, conform to the rules they conform to, but feel about yourself exactly as you do right now. Psychiatric therapy isn't something someone seeking GRS can avoid. And GRS isn't the way to get a big tax break next year.

Jesse Davis

Eugene

HELL NO

I was particularly peeved when I came home from work to find a big packet of U.S. army propaganda in my mailbox. I guess the UO gave them my address. I suppose that either the college would rather see me join the Army than finish school, or the Army forced the UO to hand over all of their students' information. I thought I'd pass along the letter I composed to request exclusion from future U.S. army mailings:

Hello U.S. Army: I am writing to request that my name and address be removed from your mailing list. In case you are wondering why, I will tell you. I have absolutely no intention of ever joining your ranks, whether it is willingly or not. I am under the moral opinion that shooting and bombing babies and others is wrong, even if the people being killed are non-white individuals residing in faraway lands. In fact, it is way worse than

just "wrong," it is disgusting, depressing, demoralizing, discriminatory, and extremely deviant. (I study psychology in school, and I can promise you that the behavior of military personnel overseas is much worse than that of delinquent teenagers.)

Not only do I want my information removed from any and all mailing lists you may keep, I would also like to extend an invitation to those of you who might be on a slightly higher moral echelon than the rest. Please, join with me in conscientious objection. If you care at all about goodness and decency, or even if you are just concerned about where your soul might end up, please consider quitting the army. Go AWOL if necessary.

When you're defending our nation, I appreciate it. Right now, however, your comrades are attacking Iraq, which means baby-bombing. I've seen the photos and heard the stories. Maybe you have, too. Please reconsider your blind nationalism. Our right to drive big vehicles is not worth the disaster we've caused in other places.

Jenene Peterson

Eugene

ROLL OVER

Randy Kolb's letter (12/30) can be summarized in a very few, very familiar words from the macho component of our so-called society: "If rape is inevitable, relax and enjoy it."

Bill Durst

Florence

GEORGE W. ORWELL

President Bush is showing an unending capacity for newspeak, I believe George Orwell called it in the book *1984*, which involves using words to mean the exact opposite of the truth. He's at it again with Social Security, planning changes to reduce the current benefits to retirees and claiming that Social Security will become "bankrupt" at a certain date — neglecting to explain that the serious reductions he's calling "bankruptcy" are specifically due to the very changes he's planning to make! This will particularly hurt women, many of whom count on Social Security in old age.

He did this reinvention of the truth with the war in Iraq, with the Abu Ghraib case, with Rumsfeld, with the elections, with arguing he's "for life" and that's why he opposes sex education and contraception even though these policies can help protect life.

We can't now stand by and let Bush cut people's promised, guaranteed retirement benefits while claiming to help promote prosperity through risky private accounts, which will actually benefit the already rich at the expense of the still poor. People need to open their eyes and see what is really being proposed — and stop it before it's too late!

Joyce Gall

Eugene



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