

DRILL WE MUST NOT

I am currently vacationing here in Portland. I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. We have no oceans or nice beaches and everyone I know who has visited Portland recommended that I come see the coast, so the main focus of my visit will be traveling down the coast visiting all the beaches and towns on the coast.

Upon arriving in Portland a young lady on the bus told me that oil and natural gas companies are pushing to drill off the coast! I could hardly believe my ears. She told me the governor could put a ban on offshore drilling and he will if he hears enough public outcry. As an out-of-towner spending my vacation dollars in Oregon, I urge all Oregonians to phone, e-mail and write letters to the governor telling him to ban the drilling.

I someday hope to bring my children to visit the beaches. I hope they will be as beautiful and pristine as they are today.

*Peter Cunningham
Cincinnati*

EDITOR'S NOTE: OSPIRG tells us there is no current state law that prohibits drilling in state coastal waters, and the federal "West Coast moratorium" prohibiting drilling sunsets in October.

LITTLE TEXAS

The new downtown neighborhood around the new federal building should be named "Little Texas." All of the new "edifice complexes" planned for that area are extensions of Texas politics and economics.

Our new "Homeland Security" courthouse building is from the Texas-based Bush regime. It is a component of a repressive preparation for the economic crises of Peak Oil — to enforce the new bankruptcy laws, the PATRIOT Act, etc.

The proposed sale of the EWEB complex to the Texas-based Triad corporation — at fire sale prices — would further cement acquisition of strategic Eugene real estate by Texans. (Having both of the region's primary medical facilities along river fronts could result in loss of hospitals during major floods or if a major earthquake destroyed upstream dams.)

The city wants to swap publicly owned land with the Giustina family in order to bring in Texas-based Whole Foods, a company nicknamed the "Wal-Mart of Health Food" for their predatory business practices. The Giustina timber company is a massive sprayer of highly toxic herbicides in Lane County forestlands and was a huge financial contributor to the Bush-Cheney campaign. Whole Foods is vehemently opposed to unions and has a track record of destroying locally owned food businesses — this would be a disaster for Eugene. The city also wants a new parking garage next to the Whole Foods big box, right next to the new Bus Rapid Transit line. This parking garage would be completed just in time for peak oil and subsequent higher gas prices (and possibly gas rationing).

I urge everyone who voted for Mayor

Piercy to urge her to shun Texas-based union busters and support local businesses as part of a peaceful preparation for peak oil.

*Mark Robinowitz
Eugene*

DRIVE WE MUST

Editorials and letters regarding automobile addiction frequently neglect a serious issue: that it is very common for employers to require employees to be licensed drivers. It is also common for the employee to be required to provide the car and proof of insurance and clean driving record. These requirements are standard in both private and public sector jobs. The last time I checked, the city of Eugene required driving for eight out of 12 full-time positions. Driving is plainly not just a matter of making choices. Not if you need to support yourself.

The car-and-license demand is a heavy financial burden for people at the lower end of the wage scale, but the implications are larger than that. There are many people who cannot drive because of physical disabilities. Age is a limiting factor, at both ends of the scale. Increasing car-dependency will put larger percentages of the population under house arrest as the population ages.

*Karen Carlson
Eugene*

BUSES GET USED

In his letter to the editor (6/2), Ray Robinson claims LTD has "mostly empty buses that compete with rush hour traffic on main thoroughfares."

I wonder just how long it's been since Mr. Robinson has taken an LTD bus. I've been using LTD almost exclusively as transportation to work for the past six months, and I find buses are often filled to capacity, especially around rush hour. Just imagine ... if every LTD rider were to drive a car instead of taking the bus, we'd all be part of rush hour traffic "competing" with each other. I can't fathom how this would be a better solution.

Mr. Robinson is free to complain all he wants about LTD. I'll continue to support them for providing a valuable service to our community in low-cost transportation solutions to many who are unable or cannot afford to drive, or to those of us who believe keeping less cars on the roads is simply a wise environmental decision.

*Kristen Dunder
Eugene*

CONTROLLING BUCKS

The Supreme Court's ruling on medical marijuana is a stellar example of the philosophy of the Bush Corpus — "Keep the problem in the pockets of the businessman." Can't have homegrown medications cutting into the profit margins of the drug companies, can we? Especially if they WORK.

After all, they have the right to sell us all drugs they want, charge us up the royal derriere for them, and duck responsibility for it if

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