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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You would never accept a budget produced by the radical right Republicans without a huge fight. You would veto all bills cutting public services. You would never veto a bill benefiting Oregon's utility consumers. You would be outspoken about any harm to children, disabled, and elderly Oregonians. You would get all the federal funding possible to help Oregon's public education, health, welfare and safety.

Finally, you keep strong ties with the traditional allies of the Democrats, labor, consumers, teachers, the elderly, social workers, persons with disabilities, environmentalists, the poor and working people of all types. You wouldn't add to the huge tilt to the rich by cutting state revenues.

A real Democrat, Pete Sorenson, advocates for these positive steps in his race to be Oregon's governor, offering effective leadership for a change.

It is reported that the current ineffective governor Ted Kulongoski is going to run again. What party is he going to represent?

*Jerry Smith
Eugene*

MISSING THE MARK

I am by no means a supporter of the neo-con's strategy of preemptive warfare, and I am a devout critic of the war in Iraq, but I feel that Brian Bogart's piece (August series) on schools and "war programming" missed the mark in a couple of areas.

I've worked in and around the defense industry for almost 25 years. Unfortunately, defense, like medicine, is a necessity. And if we have to have a military, it ought to be the best. Should more money go into education, infrastructure, medicine? Absolutely. But we still need to fund defense.

Bogart goes out of his way to criticize the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. DARPA's charter is to spur the basic research needed to create technology from scratch. DARPA technology produced the Internet; led the development of semiconductor manufacturing that has resulted in smaller, hyper-fast computing; is working on alternative fuel-cell technology; and is leading the way toward the development of nanotechnology. Bogart paints nano-tech as all bad, but there are a number of applications that will revolutionize the way we live, from micro-optical medical scanners and nano-implants that can monitor and administer insulin, to micro-manufacturing that could produce personal supercomputers. The possibilities for nanotech are endless.

Unfortunately, what has happened over the past several years is that DARPA basic research has been under increasing pressure to focus on near-term, real military applica-

tions.

Mr. Bogart is also particularly critical of the increasing use of unmanned systems and weapons in future warfare. I share his concern, but I would rather send a robotic soldier or a robotic airplane into battle than risk losing one more American kid in Iraq.

I certainly agree with Mr. Bogart that universities are becoming too dependent upon military research, but I would rather have much of that research done in a controlled, scientific setting than in a private company only interested in the bottom line. Hopefully, the university research environment will be, if not more ethical, at least more cautious and thorough.

*Mark Mitchell
Eugene*

LOSING RESPECT

I for one, appreciate the law enforcement system we have here in the states. I recently spent almost a year abroad in multiple countries where, even if there is an active police force, the likelihood of getting any sort of help, without the incentive of a bribe, is impossible. Here there are laws put in place to protect the public (though I won't go so far as to say I agree with all of them), and there are men and women who take it upon themselves to uphold these laws.

I do respect that they take all of our safety as their personal responsibility, but at the same time, many of their actions lessen that respect. For example, just this afternoon, as I walked along 13th, I came across three cop cars, two parked in parking spaces, and the other completely across the sidewalk. Three of the policemen were standing together in front of the illegally parked vehicle, chatting and smiling. As I walked around the vehicle, I mentioned that perhaps he should move his car, as it was parked in an unsafe manner, and perhaps deserved a ticket. Instead of being polite in return, he raised his voice to me and told me that in an emergency you can't always choose where you park, and would I like to come in and see the blood?

I understand fully that in an emergency, there may not be time to park properly, but considering they were milling around laughing with each other at the time, perhaps the emergency had been taken care of, and there was time to scoot his car forward five feet into the empty space in front of it. That way, pedestrians won't have to walk out into traffic.

In light of all the recent articles and court cases the EPD has been facing, this is, I know, a very small incident. But I write of it to make the point that perhaps, if the EPD respected their own laws and the law-abid-

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