

MORE SAPS?

A person is helped by being raised by a decent family, by attending a decent school, by working at a decent job, by being a decent parent and by participating in decent recreation or volunteering for a decent public activity. Hardly anyone is ever helped by being in a Standard American Prison (SAP). Building more SAPS has not been cost effective and it especially has not helped make ex-cons be more decent and productive. The way to solve this problem is to put every inmate to work studying for and/or doing the job he/she chooses to do.

That's right, turn all jails into schools/work places that teach and have residents do the kind of job every inmate would like to do or employ already highly-schooled inmates in their type of job or something related right there inside the jail. This idea would require enormous tweeking but it is doable. Make jails help not just imprison and suck taxpayer money with no good result. All of this could be paid for by early release of nonviolent inmates and by no more SAP building.

The Bushies will appreciate this approach if they get justice from the people and are thrown in jail.

Bob Saxton
Eugene

INDECENT PROPOSAL

I find the plan to hand over the most culturally interesting, pedestrian friendly part of Eugene (downtown no less!), at taxpayer expense, to a corporate special interest, shocking and most definitely obscene. There is no need to condemn thriving businesses because they refuse to sell. That's dishonest. Besides, one corporate interest does not need to own downtown anyway. Where is the diversity in that?

The planned parking lot/shopping monstrosity seems to have the intended purpose of luring 743 more cars into Eugene's downtown. And the benefit is? Ah, I mean apart from the hefty profit the developers and real estate broker will make on the deal. What about the rest of us? Increasing smog and the added obstacle course of cars to dodge? Brilliant!

And aren't the two shopping centers that are already car-accessible (Gateway and Valley River) having enough trouble luring shoppers to their stores/filling parking spaces as it is?

Do city planners really believe they'll lure new people into Eugene with this mostly chain-store mall? National chain stores you can find in any city or suburb in the U.S.?

Instead of revitalizing downtown, CWO's plan looks more like a sure-fire way to kill downtown, its unique culture

and diversity and most likely its economy as well. And what becomes of the Saturday and the Farmers markets? And how about the livelihoods of all those vendors and craftspeople if those markets are driven away by the smog and cars?

I'm amazed the mayor or City Council would even consider such a boondoggle as this. I'm a professional and a fairly new resident of Eugene and for me it was the interesting, friendly and diverse culture that led me to want to live here.

Please! Let's spend wisely with an eye on the future livability of Eugene.

Deanna Rennings
Eugene

COMMANDEER CONGRESS

No matter which party you lean toward, a serious attempt should be made to clean up and revamp Congress. Sixty-five percent of us are disgusted with this broken-down system of establishing law and policies that earmark obscene protections for big oil, drug manufacturers, insurance conglomerates, war profiteers and deregulation to keep the super wealthy in power.

At every election we are presented with candidates who appear to be their own person but already have some special interest claim on them either cloaked in secrecy or blatantly out front.

What the computer blog sites should do, partisan politics aside, is to start comparing upcoming election candidates by showing their resumes side-by-side on a split screen for television. You would find that the incumbent credentials are filled with lawyers sucking up unneeded money from lobbyists who have the journalist gift for spinning topics to death to avoid change. The resumes should show who contributes to their campaign and why they want to stay in power. The opponent need only to display a real track record of honesty to beat these idle fools.

Scientists and engineers should supplant the lawyer mentality for future national planning. We have so many wonderful people to choose from with good community service histories who have benefited the majority. Congress should be filled with common folk that know our working family values and who examine every facet of deceit and corruption in government to save a buck and help the masses. One by one the incumbents who are bilking us must go down. Otherwise, our apathy will continue to go up.

Daniel Joseph
Eugene

MISINFORMED

I am a retired economics instructor and I am very concerned about a statement by

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