

of Eugene are not a bottomless pit for funding resources. Next time you open up your ballot to vote on a new levy, find out where the money actually went the last time you supported a levy.

In the few days after the controversial decision to squander our public funds on this beast, I was in a state of shock and disbelief. It was no surprise that Poling, Solomon and Pryor supported this thing, but our so called progressive Mayor Piercy? I was starting to think she was Torrey in woman's clothing. And what happened to Kelly and Ortiz?

Lisa Warnes
Eugene

COST OF LIVING

I recently read in the *R-G*, with rising interest, that EWEB is considering another rate increase; one of the chief motivators reads to be reduced water usage. Hey! It looks like conserving those precious resources is finally paying off — paying EWEB, in any case. If there's a drought, they raise the rates. If there's too much water, they raise the rates! Where can I get a job like that?

"Cost of living" increases don't wash, either. Do we, the little guys, get cheaper gas, food, utilities? Cost of living applies across the board. Not everyone gets a cost of living pay increase, or any pay raise at all. In fact those who have regular paying jobs are considered to be fortunate to have that. Enough whining — we're all getting bit. Maybe EWEB should get off the "conserve" wagon, and head for "we're going to charge what we want, and you can suck it up."

Possibly the ideal is to tax the common wage-earner out of Eugene, and leave the rich! But where'd the service class go? Oopsie! Mistakes were made.

Need I (albeit unrelatedly) mention subsidizing a parking ramp for a national company? When did that work out last? Symantec? It's all good old American greed, and I wish I had a constituency I could raise the rates and/or taxes on — that week in Cabo is looking pretty good to me about now. (Ice-cold Pacificos and carnitas on the beach? Aah!)

Jim Carpenter
Eugene

PAVE PARADISE

I was curious, as I drove to work, about all of the tree trimming along Oakway. I imagined there was some pruning going on to keep and preserve those lovely old trees. What I shock I had as I drove home and witnessed stump after stump where once stood magnificent, mature oak trees — trees that were there long before the mall or the street that took their names from these trees. Now some committee or other has deemed them a nuisance. Where does it end?

I'm reminded of my cousin in the San Fernando Valley who justified the cutting down of the glorious eucalyptus trees along-

side her house because they were "dirty trees." Don't those who made the decision to cut these trees recognize the value of mature trees in an urban landscape? Are they penny wise and dollar foolish? I never paid a lot of attention to those great trees. They were always just there, like our parents when we're young. We don't realize how much we'll miss them until they're gone. Joni Mitchell was addressing these Eugene Stumpsters when she sang, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They've paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

I want to urge those in charge of such matters that they would serve us all a little better if they went the extra mile and figured out a way to keep the streets, sidewalk and the trees.

Bobbie Cirel
Eugene

LOW PRIORITY

As a community member over the last 13 years I have been a domestic violence advocate and batterer interventionist. I was very alarmed to hear that state funding is not paying for the supervision of domestic violence misdemeanors. How can this community, Lane County, place the battering of a person at such a low level of importance? A probation officer is a barrier in the link between offender and victim; probation officers interrupt the link before it escalates to violence again. In addition, probation officers are the link between offender accountability and victim safety. Probation officers are the ones who are called by survivors, family, friends, and other community members. Without supervised probation, who would you call, the judge?

Unequivocally, supervised probation can prevent further abuse or another murder. None of us can afford to be silent about the lack of funding for supervision of domestic violence misdemeanors. We, our community, cannot expect probation officers to continue to supervise these cases unfunded. A coordinated response must include women's shelters, law enforcement, city and county jails, prosecutors, criminal and civil courts, probation, batterer intervention, media and community members! If just one component is missing, the survivors and offenders fall through the gap.

Moreover, falling through that gap may look like the serious injuries and murders our community as incurred over the past two years.

Teri Gutierrez
Eugene

PROUD TO SERVE

Stupid soldiers? Dr. J.K. Larkin (Viewpoint, 3/16), I am neither stupid nor poor, have a bachelor's degree, and was an active duty Army soldier and Oregon Guardsman. Most recently I was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am proud of my military service

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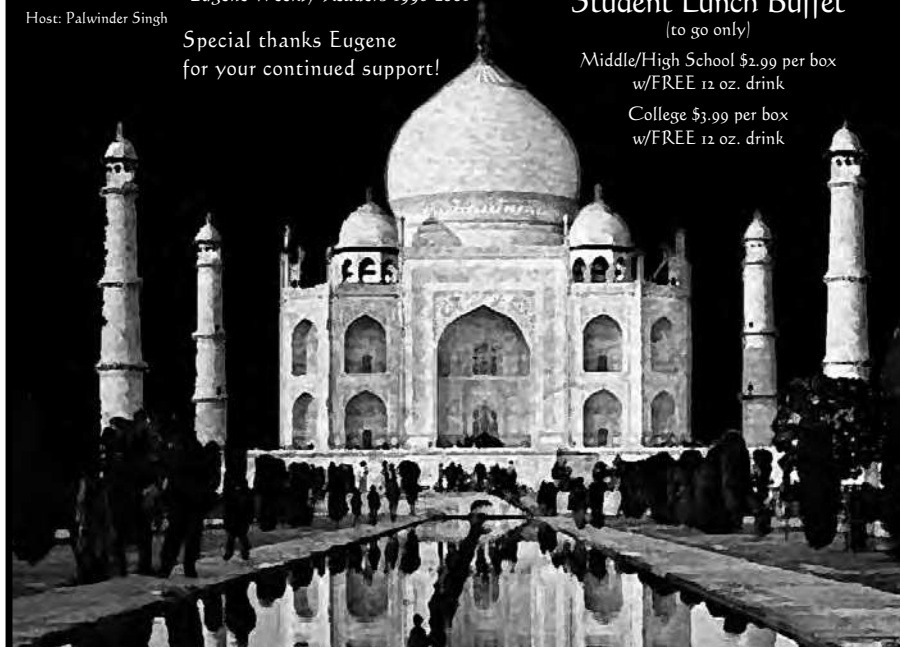
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