

Broken booze bottles and hypodermic needles litter the sidewalks. Cars screech by in the middle of the night, running over pets, lawns and fences, and there are often tussles in the street. The question my neighbors and I always have is, "Where are the Eugene city police when you need them?"

Several shocking scandals have rocked the EPD in the last few years like: sending a tank through a Whiteaker neighborhood to bust a non-existent pot-growing operation; several incidents of racial profiling that tarnish Eugene's reputation of embracing diversity; and the real-life nightmare of rapists equipped with badges and guns. So should it surprise the EPD that the citizens of Eugene are not interested in buying them a brand new building?

Keeping in mind the lack of trust between the EPD and the citizens who employ them, as well as the increase of property and violent crimes occurring in our city, you'd think the Eugene police would be concentrating on improving relations by cracking down on hard crime and being respectful toward the citizenry. But the absurd spectacle I saw in front of my house, with the Eugene city police using what looked like the entire police force to box in some bike riders on a Critical Mass bike ride, and then knock them off their bicycles, makes me realize the Eugene police haven't changed one bit.

I'd much prefer my tax money go to having the police protect me and my family from people who are out to harm us, rather than brutalizing a group of peaceful bike riders who aren't a threat to anyone. I've personally complained to the EPD, and if you're a Eugene citizen who feels as if the police department could use some improvements, I urge you to call them as well at 682-5111.

Talia Delman
Eugene

ESSENTIAL DEBATE

Catching up on local news after a couple weeks out of town, I'm struck by the high quality of the discussion concerning the Whole Foods Market proposals carried in *EW*. A genuine vision of what Eugene's urban core can and should become seems to be emerging.

In a sense, this paper is conducting the process of deliberation essential to enlightened and responsible self-governance. It's regrettable that our officials remain mired in the time-honored process by which land speculators determine development patterns based on motives of personal greed.

Far from rewarding "investors" whose strategy is to destroy the value of property so it can be acquired cheaply for great profit at a much later date, citizens might consider ways to keep land in productive use and out of the hands of speculators. The single tax system of Henry George has been shown to be effective at accomplishing this goal by taxing property itself instead of improvements on it; specu-

tors can't afford to hold unused property so it passes to its most productive use — and tax receipts grow!

EW's good work will bear fruit — if not now, then in another election cycle or two. There is nothing more powerful than the creative vision of the people.

Fergus McLean
Dexter

VOTE WITH DOLLARS

There's been a lot of negative sentiment about the development of Whole Foods in Eugene lately. What people should realize is that we can bicker, complain and protest endlessly to no avail. If you oppose Whole Foods detracting from local business and culture, don't just complain, do something about it!

Large corporations are not going to listen to bickering. If you want to speak to them, you have to communicate in a language they will clearly understand: the almighty dollar. If you believe in local business, support local business. Spend money locally and encourage your friends to do the same. These companies may not listen to your voice, but they will listen to your wallet. Remember, Whole Foods can only stay in business here with our support as a community. Without enough of our money to sustain it, Whole Foods would have to concede their bad investment and take their business elsewhere.

Michael Kurcsics
Eugene

EXPLODING HEAD

Did anyone but me feel a whole lot of cognitive dissonance at the March 18 peace rally? CD is when two incompatible ideas fight it out in your mind, leading to the exploding head syndrome.

On March 16 our Rep. Peter DeFazio voted for another \$68 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. You can find the roll call vote at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll065.xml>.

Two days after his pro-war vote, DeFazio was one of the main speakers at the peace rally. Apparently the leaders who organized the rally wanted to send a message that no matter how DeFazio votes on the war, he is still one of us. Well he's not one of me, and I don't believe his vote represents his district. I'll vote against him next November.

If Eugene peace leaders, otherwise known as Democrats, want to maintain their credibility, they should leave DeFazio off the invite list next time. Having him speak was dishonest.

Lynn Porter
Eugene

FRIDAY'S RIDE

I am a peaceful kind of guy. I enjoy hanging out with environmentally and socially conscious folks, but I get along with most everybody, in almost all social situations. I live simply so that others may simply live. By that I

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- 04.10 The Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band
- 04.14 Sweeter Than The Day/Evening Eyes
- 04.18 Swang
- 04.27 Judy Collins
- 05.06 Guy Clark
- 05.07 John Pizzarelli Quartet
- 05.09 Richard Thompson
- 05.11-20 The Jazz Kings: Harry & Hoagy

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The Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band
Mon, April 10th



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Romero Lubambo
Thursday, April 6th



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George Kahumoku
Sunday, April 9th

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