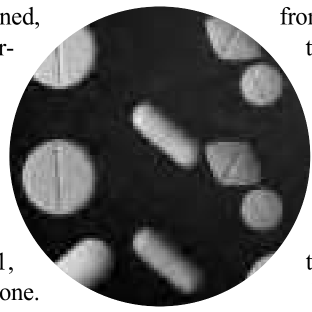
per. Not everybody who wants treatment gets treatment. To cite that treatment statistics have remained flat or have lessened is another way of saying that demand for treatment remains constant, and/or access to treatment has lessened, due to shifting budget priorities. Not that an epidemic is manufactured, as the article implied.



Every 24 hours legal drugs (tobacco, alcohol, pharmaceuticals) kill more people than died on 9/11, every death a preventable one. Is this an epidemic? Or endemic? Is underage drinking epidemic or endemic? Does it matter which? What are you going to do about it? You could be about promoting solutions — or not.

Mark Harris, coordinator
Multicultural Substance Abuse Prevention
Lane Community College

HALF A WEP

Maybe I'm naive, but when I looked at the map of the proposed West Eugene Parkway, it seems a simple compromise would be to end the parkway at the Beltline. That way it is still a good shortcut and bypasses all the congestion near Fred Meyer and the little strip malls, but doesn't go through and destroy wetlands.

Why didn't *The Register-Guard*'s article on April 11 mention the wetlands? Wetlands are great filtration systems and important habitat for many different species of plants and animals. That is my major reason for resisting it. That and the fact that people have got to wake up and start thinking of mass transportation. Has anyone been paying attention to global warming? Hello!

I think Mark Robinowitz was correct: It's really about the greed of a few. Same old story.

Pam Driscoll
Eugene

LACKING LOGIC

Once again Mr. Alsup's attack (4/6) on Mr. Urhausen's motives is uninformed and misdirected. Alsup rushes from assumption to conclusion about people he does not know, based on his emotions, name calling, and not on informed logic. First, Alsup assumes that the funds to pay the plaintiff's lawyer came from Mr. McIntire, but in fact, the entire amount to press this suit and any appeal has been donated specifically for those two purposes by a substantial number of Eugene and 4J residents, none of whom are "neo-cons" and who all felt the city's actions were unconstitutional.

What does Alsup think the effect of $.86 per thousand assessment is on persons who own their home but live only on income from Social Security? McIntire, Urhausen, Mr. Rice, myself, all the donors and even Alsup are all citizens of Oregon. Not one is an "outsider" regarding the constitutionality of this issue. Apparently, Alsup's "world view" assumes that the City of Eugene, 4J and Bethel, at their self-serving whim, should not be part of or subject to the state of Oregon, that Ashland and Eugene get and choose to follow only good legal advice and that Eugene politicians, including Mr. Torrey, do not make errors in judgement and never try to game the system.

Perhaps Alsup should take the time to read the judgement in this case. We all look forward to the Oregon Supreme Court ruling, although this case and the city's appeal is likely to cost Eugene taxpayers six figures in legal fees paid to a private law firm.

John McVickar
Eugene

INSPIRED BY JAM

Hooray for a great article about Hip Hop Hope in your 4/6 issue! I was lucky enough to be a part of it — and let me tell you — it was incredible to watch those kids record their own thoughts, words and music on a professionally produced CD in just five days. This exciting youth program was created by Charlie Murphy of Power of Hope and headed up by the city of Eugene Youth Recreation Services in collaboration with the Oregon Country Fair.

WHO YOU GONNA BLAME?

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