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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REAL SOLUTIONS NEEDED

Lane County voters sent county commissioners and judicial system Measure 20-114 proponents another "no thanks."

The thinly disguised 20 percent lip service for crime prevention and 80 percent incarceration staffing formula was a smokescreen taxpayers thankfully saw through. Greater incarceration rates and "revolving door" treatment of detained petty drug criminals is unwise. Lockup strategies are self-perpetuating and overlook causes of criminal behavior like poverty, family cultures of crime, gang behavior and mental illness.

Real solutions make connections between catching criminals, sustainable economies and social services. Commissioners might clearly propose better early interventions, effective family services, deeper foster care support, prevention through community policing, expanded parole/probation/job services, incentives for outpatient substance abuse therapies and more effective mental health services.

The *Register Guard's* pre-election litany that our petty crime system is "stretched to its limits" suggested taxpayers throw money at the problem. If taxes increase \$500, but without tax increases folks risk \$250 in property crime, the system robs us at twice the cost. Why expand media ballyhooed "lock 'em up — dope 'em up to manage 'em — then release 'em" baloney? Next time I'd vote to spend half as much on better schools, social cures and crime prevention.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Commissioners might propose a fairer tax, one that denies breaks to big landowners and lightens average taxpayers' burdens. PERS employees should also pay their share of the cost.

Until politicians offer real solutions to property crime and a fairer taxation system, let's continue to vote down "public safety" initiatives.

Ethen Perkins
 Eugene

TIME FOR ACTION

As most of us have expected, the Democrats have taken control of the U.S.

House, and possibly the Senate as well. This election was a clear signal from the American people that we are fed up with the direction that the Bush administration has been taking us, and that we need to hold them accountable for the mess they have made.

However, now the real work begins. The only way to hold Mr. Bush and his cronies accountable is to begin investigations into their crimes — specifically, the lies that lead to the Iraq invasion, the use of torture, the overrides of Congressional authority and too many others to list.

Unfortunately, the new speaker of the House has publicly pledged that impeachment is off the table. If Congress does not investigate this president, with an eye to impeachment, then they will have abandoned their obligations to the American people.

As residents of the Eugene area, our only voice in Congress is Peter DeFazio. When I asked him last year to support impeachment, he replied that such efforts would backfire in a Republican-controlled Congress. Now that this barrier has been removed, I am hopeful that he will sign on to support House Resolution 635, which calls for the creation of a commission to investigate these matters.

If you believe as I do that investigation and impeachment of the president and vice president are essential in our nation's healing, I urge you to contact DeFazio as soon as possible, and ask him to co-sponsor HR 635.

Jim Johnson
 Eugene

ROOTS OF DISSENT

I just wanted to write to say that I am really excited by Kera Abraham's five-part story on the Green Scare, and the roots of the story that started close to and in Eugene. I've been following the story in other media outlets, but this is the first time that I have heard the real back story, the very beginnings. The way Miss Abraham conveyed the spirit of Warner Creek was new and moving. Just wanted to say thank you and keep up the great work! I can't wait until next week's issue.

Christina Sasser
 Eugene