

tesy of all the businesses LTD collects tax monies from as their buses pass by on peculiarly laid out routes.

I say we should've taken all that money and bought every bus rider a car. My bet is they'd appreciate that a lot more than six minutes to nowhere. That being said, since this is Eugene, we'd give them the choice of a shiny new bicycle if they preferred. Calling it as I see it.

*Steve Hatz
Springfield*

NOT SUSTAINABLE

Please don't take this too personally, but our biosphere is quickly approaching near collapse via a biological holocaust and the alteration of the climate by our bloody unsustainable lifestyles supported by science and technology.

Just a few nights ago, I learned from a Jean-Michel Cousteau mini documentary that about 200 million sharks are slaughtered each year for, among other things, shark fin soup. (So please don't eat any form of shark and for you animal rights folks, here is a cause for you. Save the shark!) It boggles my mind that we as a species can be so ruthless and reckless with our life support systems. Yet this type of scientific discovery and analysis is crucial to saving the shark and the human species.

Yet we pour billions upon billions of dollars into science for a better video game or faster computer or a smaller cell phone or better bomb or faster rocket or to send a man to Mars or some other form of what I call "scientific masturbation." Projects that only a few scientists get benefits and pleasure from with zero or negative value to society or to the biosphere.

Science that has no real benefit to saving the biosphere or conserving species or cleaning the toxics from our environment or lessening our impact on natural resources should not be funded by foundations or governments considering the seemingly insurmountable catastrophe we are beginning to see right before our very eyes.

*Shannon Wilson
Eugene*

CRY HAVOC

Talk about unleashing the dogs of war — according to the president's new plan, the problem in Iraq was not enough U.S. troops and too many restrictions on those that are there. The November elections were a watershed event, and current polling confirms that

a large majority of the American people want us out of Iraq (Bush's war performance is approved by a mere 17 percent).

So up he pops, with a totally wrong response — expand the war — at the cost of more lives lost and a few hundred million dollars more each week. The military death rate will go from three to four or five each day.

We can't count on the newly elected Democratic majority in Congress to stop this escalation or this war. We're at a point similar to early 1968 with Vietnam. That was when opposition to the war, ineffective in stopping Lyndon Johnson's repeated escalations, turned to resistance. We're facing just such a choice. Bush wants until November to try out his disastrous new policy; by then another thousand troops will be dead.

The president says he won't let a popularity contest control his strategy. Excuse me, but a basic tenet of democracy is for the popular will to decide national policies. If this popular will is totally ignored, the right, even the necessity, of resistance reverts to the people. I just hope this resistance is based on better judgement than was the case with some of us in the '60s.

*Paul Prenskey
Eugene*

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