

or holistic focus thereby congregate. This, to Willard, is "segregation."

Well, it's not segregation, of course. The word evokes a minority suffering at the hands of a majority, and the regular schoolers are a substantial majority. When a majority suffers at the hands of a minority, that's called "elitism." But is it elitism here?

Go find parents who prefers their neighborhood school and ask them about it. They care about grades, of course, but not more than their child being able to walk to school. They appreciate teaching a world consciousness but not at the expense of a local consciousness. College is cool, but it's not the end of the world if their kid doesn't go. They're confident that their children will grow up happy, healthy and at least as successful as they are. And they're right.

Will they end up working for the kids attending alternative schools? Probably. Does this mean that they'll be less proud, have more divorces or die sooner? You know it

doesn't.

This is neither segregation nor elitism. This is choice.

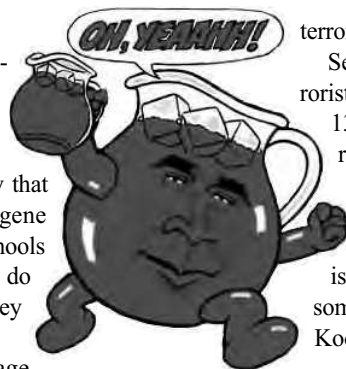
When I told some friends out of state recently that there are people in Eugene whose solution to some schools getting higher grades is to do away with those schools, they laughed.

Maybe it wasn't courage that prompted you to print Nancy's editorial, but your sense of humor?

*Steve Downey
Eugene*

HIGH-OCTANE KOOL-AID

A C-130 military transport plane leaving Baghdad airport Aug. 30, carrying Sens. Martinez, Shelby and Inhofe and Congressman Cramer, had to take evasive maneuvers to avoid being shot down from



terrorist missiles and rocket fire.

Sen. James M. Inhofe says terrorists' attempt to shoot down the C-130 military transport plane carrying him and other lawmakers demonstrated the progress of the U.S. military campaign.

If Sen. Inhofe thinks this is progress, they must be serving some pretty high octane pro-surge Kool-Aid over there.

*Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain*

A DECENT ALTERNATIVE

In response to William Porter's letter ("Biodiesel Kills," 8/30), I believe the writer to be somewhat misinformed. It sounds to me like he might be getting bioethanol and biodiesel confused as bioethanol is derived primarily from corn, while biodiesel is derived from vegetable oil. While it's true some ethanol or methanol is used during the con-

version process to turn vegetable oil into biodiesel, the main component of biodiesel is vegetable oil. The oil can be derived from many sources, including used cooking oil, but from what I understand the largest source of oil for biodiesel is soy beans. According to www.biodiesel.org biodiesel emissions compared with conventional diesel have 67 percent less unburned hydrocarbons, 48 percent less carbon monoxide, 47 percent less particulate matter, 100 percent less sulfates and just slightly higher NOx's (10 percent).

I'd recommend Porter get his facts straight before insisting on the ignorance of others. To compare a VW TDI beetle that probably gets 45 mpg running on biodiesel to a Hummer running conventional gas and getting, what, 10 mpg, is, needless to say, ridiculous.

On a further note, biodiesel can be grown and produced right here in Oregon.

I know people who make it in their garage from grease collected at local restaurants that

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