

NO SHORTAGE OF PARKS

To all those proposing a park in the old Sears building pit:

Eugene has parks. It's hard to go three blocks in some areas of town without running into one. And many of the areas of town that aren't a park look like one anyway. Natural beauty is a part of what makes Eugene such a nice place to live.

Two things that Eugene also has are gaping holes right in the center of town and a money problem in city government. Our schools, public safety and social services are underfunded, and our roads are crumbling. We need the center of our city to be a stronger source of tax revenue.

Until someone can show me how a park is going to help alleviate these problems, I will be opposed to it. Is money the most important thing in civic planning? No. Should developers be allowed to run roughshod over our city? Of course not. But trust me, if they don't build in the center of our city, they'll build on the edges, and sprawl is far worse than some national chains springing up in our downtown. And if we kick them out of Eugene, there are plenty of other towns nearby that will welcome them.

Let's support our City Council in moving toward their plans for downtown.

William Kennedy
Eugene

UGLY IS AS UGLY DOES

I love the meth ads! Make it as ugly as it really is for those folks doing it and those of us living around it.

Michelle Holman
Deadwood

STOP NIKE LANDBANK

Alan Zelenka's advocacy in favor of eminent domain for Dave Frohnmayer's proposed expansion of campus and replacement of Mac Court is having an increasingly detrimental effect on the Fairmount neighborhood. Councilor Zelenka's willingness to publicly support the massive, yet-to-be-determined UO expansion and land acquisition scheme warrants a recall effort. The UO has not disclosed the scope of their eminent domain intentions and future development plans, leaving citizens no choice but to gather signatures leading to a recall election of Alan Zelenka.

Eminent domain abuse has run rampant across the country, and it should not be abused in Eugene. Citizens who would like more information about the upcoming effort to recall Councilor Zelenka can email ericeiden@yahoo.com or call 868-5122.

Eric Eiden
Eugene

CAN'T TRUST COPS

Though the use of Tasers might have its place, only police officers who can be trusted to use adequate self-control and are willing to witness against fellow officers when required should be able to use these weapons. Most of all, it should require that our police chief and mayor respond to complaints against their officers in a manner that would keep the officers under control.

Unfortunately, Eugene cops have not demonstrated that they can be trusted either to show restraint with their weapons or to tell the truth about their fellow officers' behavior when complaints are filed against them. Based upon their history of abuse and lying for one another, we should not have any confidence that Tasers will be used properly or that complaints about their misuse will be handled properly.

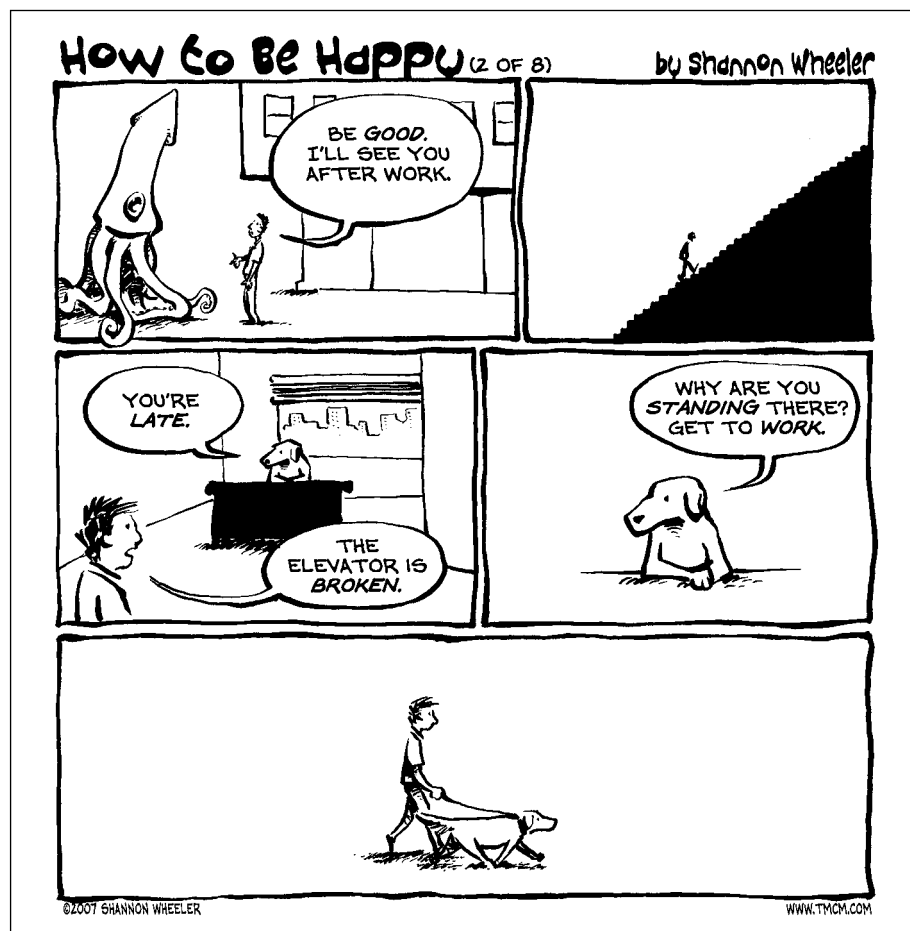
The current practice whereby complaints against the police department are passed on to an auditor or committee will remain totally worthless unless these people are given the authority to properly investigate the complaint, judge whether the complaint has merit and recommend corrective action.

Wayne Pierce
Eugene

TOO OBVI, REALLY

OK, so I'm not going to bother to explain exactly *why* Eugene needs a downtown park and public open space for meeting people, reading library books and relaxing (besides the LTD bus station, of course) because in my mind, it's just a non-issue. I mean, do I really have to explain how much good it would do the city if there were a park downtown? No, because we all already know it. (Well, at least some of us.)

On Sunday I will be leaving to travel in Europe for two months. I hope while I am enjoying its famous parks that the city of Eugene will do something great for its downtown area



by bringing in some green, creating a place to gather and not fostering the need for even more cars. Please don't follow the UO's lead, which is currently raping the campus by cutting down large trees and destroying a favorite large open grass space to create none other than — a parking lot.

P.S. I am a 21-year-old college student, and I vote, pay my taxes, ride my bike and care about the future of this city. Isn't it time that the "older and wiser" people in charge care about it too?

Sarah Thorpe
Eugene

DANCING FOR JOY

We'd like to thank Sara Brickner for her mention of our tribal fusion belly dance troupe, Luminessah, in the *EW* guide to the Eugene Celebration (9/6). After reading the last sentence she wrote, however, we feel the need to clarify the intentions of our dance ("depending on your sexual preference, you're either hypnotized by the seductive power of undulating bodies in bikini tops, or you're wondering how you too, can learn to

shake it like that").

This is a spiritual dance to be shared and enjoyed by everyone, not a sexual dance. The movements of our dance invoke sacred elements, tell ancient stories and create blessings. The undulation movement Ms. Brickner speaks of represents the sacred ritual of birth. And the unique costumes reflect just as much of our spiritual intentions as the dance, as well as the many cultural influences we welcome into our circle. For example, the "bikini tops" Ms. Brickner mentioned are actually in many cases traditional Indian *cholis* or professional dance tops that we've spent much time and effort creating.

We respect others' perceptions of this art form but too often find ourselves fighting strongly judgmental stereotypes. We do not speak for other dancers nor do we wish to represent all belly dancers. We are glad to have this opportunity to share our perspective of this performance art. In Luminessah we simply dance for joy, sisterhood and spirit.

The women of Luminessah
Jeannie Anderson, Ali Armstrong
Lila McDaniel, LeeAnn Myers

RENOVATE MAC COURT

Allie Grasgreen's *Oregon Daily Emerald* (ODE) article ("University Cleared to Use Eminent Domain for Arena," 9/17) touches on the definition of public interest.

Greg Bolt's article in *The Register-Guard* ("Arena Clears Land Hurdle," 9/7) reports on this issue as well. He writes, "UO officials argued that the arena project provides public benefits that justify eminent domain." Some "public benefits" included "\$200 million into the economy" and, once the arena is completed, "to area businesses." Additionally, Bolt reports that the arena "furthers the UO's academic interest because it will allow the UO to tear down McArthur Court and use the site for an academic building."

Of course, what comes immediately to mind is, why not just renovate McArthur Court and build the proposed academic building on the site currently slated for a new basketball arena?

What is largely kept out of the picture is how the potential of tearing down McArthur Court will affect the culture, identity and community of the UO and, as well, Eugene. Considering the cultural, identity and community impact

this building has had on these communities — the memories and character this building has created for eight decades, one is left wondering how a projected \$200 million into the overall economy will serve the public good of the UO, Eugene, and perhaps Oregon.

Noting that once complete, the arena will "provide further benefits to area businesses," one also has to wonder: Where will the "\$200 million into the economy" go? Given the amount of Nike involvement in UO athletics (e.g., advertising, public relations, and merchandizing), it is not difficult to see where this \$200 million will go.

Mike O'Brien's *ODE* article ("Building Projects Make Campus Safer, More Up-to-Date," 9/17) and Tim Christie's *R-G* article ("Railroad Depot Speeds into History Books," 9/7) give testimony that historic buildings, though not profitable, still serve their purpose. Similar cases could be made for McArthur Court, Michigan's "Big House," and Chicago's Wrigley Field — all at least 80 years old. As for examples of college basketball arenas still in use, there are the Palestra (University of Pennsylvania, 1927), Williams Arena (University of Minnesota, 1927) and Cameron Indoor

Stadium (Duke, 1940).

Given the historical contexts of these arenas, stadiums and ballparks within the community they exist, along with everything else mentioned above and the cited articles, the case has to be made: Is preserving a valuable historic basketball arena, letting the local businessman keep his location and established business, and building the proposed academic building on land already acquired serving the public interest?

One also has to look as who is pushing for the new basketball arena. ODE has reported many times about Athletic Director Pat Kilkenny contributing significantly, if not all, to buy out Bill Moos, his predecessor. Given Kilkenny's previous experience as a businessman and as a longtime Ducks booster and friend of Nike Chairman Phil Knight — and Knight's influence over Frohnmayer — it doesn't come as any surprise that this new arena is being pushed for so drastically by these three individuals, particularly when the profit potential of a new arena is thrown into the picture.

Jonathan O. Bowers
Eugene