

biodiesel with interest. This sort of disinformation seems to be making the rounds. I've read almost the exact same words on conservative blogs and have to wonder who is behind these bogus "talking points."

Some of what Mr. Porter wrote may indeed apply to corn-based ethanol, which has a disturbingly strong lobby in Washington. Biodiesel isn't made from corn.

Hopefully the "middle class liberal elite" Porter is addressing *do* educate themselves. An educated person would know that it's low corn prices, not high ones, that have encouraged dumping U.S. corn on "poor people all over the world," driving their indigenous farmers out of business and into desperation and forcing many to illegally cross our borders.

Most of the biodiesel I use is made from restaurant waste oil, which would otherwise be treated as toxic waste and dumped. The carbon it releases when burned was absorbed from the atmosphere only last year, meaning there is little net gain in atmospheric CO2. This is a key difference from the "nasty and disgusting gas" Mr. Porter burns in his eco-friendly Hummer. Fossil fuels release carbon that has been sequestered for millions of years.

Biodiesel can also be made from algae grown with nonpotable water on unproductive lands, and probably soon will be, a really exciting development.

In the meantime, individuals, co-ops or neighbors so inclined can get together and make their own biodiesel processors and

make fuel from waste oil for about 60 cents a gallon. I've done it, and it isn't that hard.

It's true that we need to change the way we live and not drive so much. Merely replacing fossil fuels with biofuels isn't going to save our asses. But biodiesel is clearly a step in the right direction.

Rob Nelson  
Santa Rosa, Calif.

**ROLL CALL!**

The correct question to be asking ourselves is no longer, "How can we revitalize downtown?"

The correct questions are:

- 1) How will a \$40 million public park across from the Library revitalize *me* and *my* experience of downtown as: a library card holder, a shopper, a shopkeeper, a nonprofit, a symphony-goer, a Saturday Market/Tuesday Market/Eugene Celebrator, an art-walker, a gallery owner, a leasing agent or real estate agent, a diner, a dreamer, an employee downtown who sometimes prefers a bag lunch and a stroll to patronizing one of downtown's many fine eateries?
- 2) How will \$105 million in additional parking, yet another Borders and a private park revitalize *me* and *my* experience of downtown? (In this \$105 million revitalization scenario, none of us gets to laptop lunch in the "anti-public park" unless we own or rent an attached, multi-user housing unit.)

Compare your answers.

Now write the Mayor's West Broadway Advisory Committee, c/o City Hall. Demand (nicely, of course) that City Hall spend *our* revitalization money building Library Park.

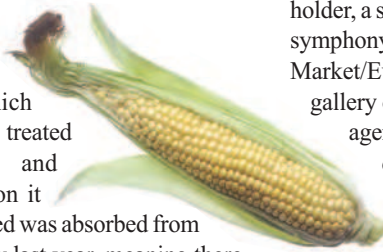
Parking lots attract cars. Parks attract people. People have money, which they enjoy exhausting. Cars have exhausts, which, for the most part, are killing *everything*.

Communicate while we still have Mayor Piercy listening. Let's do this while *we* get to. Then, let's do another cool thing as soon as

it's done. Ya know how and why we will do that? Because we will have, when the park is done, about \$70 million in the bank, after interest, to play with.

Don't be late! Don't be late!

Loren M. Mohler  
Eugene



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