

ical programs put money IN to a state's funds?

While those who oppose the war in Iraq hold large demonstrations and get major air-time on national media, the drug war gets no or little notice. Even though our drug policies affect every community in the nation, seriously continue to erode the Constitution and have police raiding homes in military assault team fashion (anyone remember 5th and Adams?) the War On (some) Drugs remains the forgotten stepchild of politics.

Allan Erickson  
Eugene

**A VICIOUS CYCLE**

I'm a soldier. Every day when I step out my front door, I enter a war zone. To cross the battlefield alive I dodge hurtling missiles of all shapes and sizes capable of tearing me apart. Sometimes I'm assaulted by hundreds of missiles at a time — a day does not pass where I'm not inches from losing my life.

I gasp through low-hanging clouds of poison gas as I make my way as quickly and as safely as I can across the battlefield. I'm jarred by craters and a never-ending array of obstacles blocking my path, threatening to waylay, injure or kill me.

There are days when I feel like giving up. When the battle seems too hopeless. When there are too few standing by my side. When the stress of each day's hellish journey sets my teeth grinding through the night and my sleep is plagued by nightmares as a corpse is plagued by worms.

Then I remember what I'm fighting for and that I believe in the cause. And that I have an obligation to do what I know is best for my fellow citizens, my country and future generations. Though I'm not a violent person, I realize sometimes you must fight for your freedoms.

So I carry on.

The sad thing is, I never signed up for this war. I wasn't even drafted. All I ever wanted to do was ride my bicycle across Eugene to work in the morning.

Josh Schlossberg  
Eugene

**RAIDERS OF THE YARD**

About 12 years ago, after moving into our new home, I tried to grow roses. Well, it was a short lived attempt. I planted them, and the next thing I knew they were gone. Oh, not dead. Some rose deprived person felt they would look better in their yard. I attempted to reclaim them. Followed a trail of dirt from First Avenue to Whiteaker school. Unfortunately the trail ended. So, I hope the roses got black spot and it spread to all of your other plants. Well, over the years I have tried to have other yard art. Things have continued to disappear.

The final straw was Buddha from our

front porch. You know that person will have bad karma for many lifetimes. So, to the most recent attempt: You know who you are. Are your hands OK? I hope it was a painful attempt at thievery.

Shannon Buck  
Eugene

**TWO WHEELS ARE BEST**

As our tragic occupation in the Middle East rages on, what can we do here at home that can impact it? So many of us have been untouched by this that we don't even think about it on a daily basis. Well, it's still going on; innocent people are dying every day and our tax dollars are funding it.

One reason for our presence there is to secure oil supplies for the U.S. Therefore, one way we can impact the situation is to lessen our demand for oil! I live on a busy street. There is seldom a quiet moment from the noise of cars hurling past. This is a bike-friendly community with plenty of local shops that provide waterproof gear of all types. This is the kind of city that should be leading the way for the rest of the nation. Why don't we truly make an effort, make a sacrifice ourselves and commit to the bicycle commute! Not only will it dampen our push for foreign oil, it will save us money as the cost of oil nears \$100 a barrel, and the exercise will get our hearts pumping first thing in the morning.

Want peace? You can start by bicycling.

Margaret Beavers  
Eugene

**JUST BUREAUCRATS**

Thanks for publishing Robert Simms' outstanding letter: "Politics of Poppies" (11/15). I especially liked his line, "this war (drug war) was never meant to be won."

U. S. drug czar John Walters is essentially the head cheerleader for the drug war bureaucracy. Like all bureaucrats, his goal is the continuation and expansion of his bureaucracy. All bureaucracies want more power and more money. The drug-war bureaucracy is no exception.

The only way to achieve victory in the so-called drug war is to re-legalize all of our now illegal drugs so they can be sold in licensed, regulated and taxed businesses.

Victory is not the goal of the drug war. Victory in the drug war would mean that the drug war bureaucracy is out of business. Victory in the drug war would mean that our robust prison building industry would come to a screeching halt.

Victory in the drug war would mean that thousands of so-called drug warriors would be looking for a job or working at quickie marts.

Kirk Muse  
Mesa, Ariz.



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