

**TROLLEYS WON'T WORK**

I'd just like to point out that this article (cover story, 1/10) doesn't provide any tangible evidence about why a streetcar system would be a good fit for Eugene. Quoting city councilors who have less information about the EmX expansion project than the very committee (West Eugene EmX Expansion Corridor Committee) that I participate on is hardly authoritative information.

The reporter did a disservice to the community in failing to fact-check any of the assertions made by Councilors Bettman and Taylor as well as failing to fact check information passed to the *Weekly* by a special interest group advocating for streetcars. Additionally the connection that the "reporter" makes between the Bush administration and BRT is inappropriate and wrong. LTD has many reasons for supporting and advocating for BRT; none of those are represented in this article.

The bottom line is that polarizing this issue is not going to make Eugene a better place to live. Eugene residents will only succeed in losing precious federal dollars and the chance to take a proactive approach at facing already dire transportation problems. If you want a cogent example of what bickering and inaction will do to solve a problem, look no further than Eugene's downtown.

Shame on you for perpetuating lies. Let's hope the rest of Eugene can see that this article is shill piece for a special interest group.

Micah Sardell  
Eugene

**IMPACT OF ARENA**

So, the UO is preparing to spend \$200 million on a new basketball stadium on Franklin Boulevard. What will be the environmental impact both during construction and during games?

How will construction affect the new EmX bus line that is a few feet away? What did the construction of the EmX line cost Eugene citizens? How much of that fine neighborhood will be torn down? Will alcohol use be allowed in the new stadium's parking lot before, during and after games?

Will there be adequate policing, especially to deter drunk drivers from racing through the remaining neighborhood? Have there been any lawsuits brought by victims of accidents caused by drunk drivers spilling from the Autzen Stadium parking lot? Not yet?

Will this proposed new stadium adhere to the green recommendations made by the Mayors' Climate Change Conference and adopted by Eugene's City Council? Could that \$200 million be better used to reduce the UO campus' large carbon footprint?



Are there on-campus environmental organizations fighting against new stadium construction?

Charles F. Thielman  
Eugene

**SEE FOR YOURSELF**

A caricature of Pacifica Forum addressed to a local editor has elicited from 15 PF attendants the caveat that persons seeking accurate information about PF would better attend it than rely on letters to editors. The caveat has in turn elicited a report (news story, 12/20) that purports to narrate what took place at four PF sessions.

The undersigned PF attendants regard the four-part report as in turn so caricatured that they repeat: All who seek accurate information about PF, particularly the alleged shouting that goes on there, would better rely on attending PF rather than on press reports.

Beginning Jan. 11, PF will meet at 4 pm Fridays in the Walnut Room next to the post office on the 13th Avenue side of the EMU on campus.

Dawn Coslow, Maggie Murphy  
Davic Murphy, Ronna Boucher  
Paul Reynolds, Albert Leinbach  
Wilson McKenzie, Orval Etter

**TOO MUCH INK**

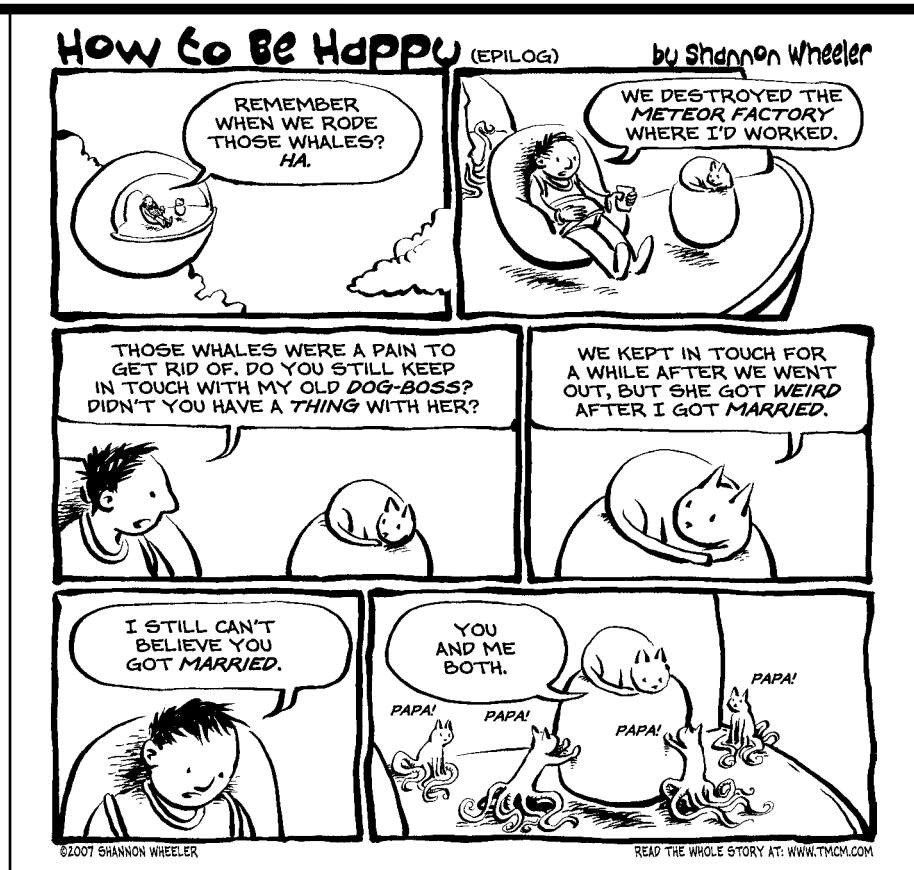
Once again, *EW* has given Nancy Willard (Viewpoint, 1/3) a platform to vent her unfounded claims concerning the inequality and unfairness of our alternative school system. For those of you unfamiliar with this system, Eugene has several alternative schools dispersed throughout the city. Until recently, admission to these schools was conducted by lottery so that everyone had an equal chance of being admitted. That changed in the past couple of years, and now some students are given preferential treatment due to their parents' lack of income.

The alternative schools, particularly our three language schools, are well known and highly regarded all over the country. In fact, representatives of other school districts come to Eugene to try to learn about our alternative school system.

For some inexplicable reason, Willard has chosen the destruction of this great system as her personal goal. What she doesn't realize, and what is quite obvious to even the casual observer, is that getting rid of our alternative school system will cause our public schools to become more segregated and less diverse. By requiring students to attend schools located in their neighborhoods, kids from rich neighborhoods

will go to school with other rich kids from their neighborhood, and poor kids will go to school with other poor kids from their neighborhood. Instead, the alternative school system allows rich and poor kids to go to the same schools, and isn't that what diversity is all about?

Finally, I would appreciate it if *EW* would



stop giving Willard half pages at a time to express her bizarre opinions. Having a few initials after her name and being the 1985 S.L.U.G. Queen are hardly credentials for getting so much ink.

Dave Taube  
Eugene

**HUNTING COUGAR**

A half dozen of us retired third and fourth generation Oregonians scattered over Oregon and northern California for a variety of hunting opportunities the last couple of months. This brought us together with family, old friends, ranchers and several wildlife professionals. These meeting caused us to revisit Camilla Mortensen's July 19 article "Cougar Kill."

While we thought the article was fair, and we found no distortions, there were some omissions as pointed out by ODFW's Ron Anglin's response. We filed the article away and waited for the fallout.

None of us have encountered any of the "threats to human safety" that the protectionist folks claim ODFW uses to "scare" people with. But in our recent travels we have been witness to and shown documented predation on not only wildlife but plenty of domestic pets and livestock. And we found this was the real reason ODFW sought clarification from the Attorney General's Office to allow "agents with hounds" to aid in cougar management.

Those of you who don't live in a bubble may find reading *The Beast in the Garden* by NPR's science reporter David Baron interesting if not thought provoking. We found similarities in what was happening in Boulder, Colo., leading up the death of a young man by a cougar, and what is actually going on here in Lane County. Try a follow up read, *Cougar Attacks* by Kathy Etling. These books may help explain why it may be wise to post trail heads with the cautions that some of you have noted.

All this aside, we have a document from California's Department of Fish and Game, "Mountain Lion Depredation Statistics Summary," showing kill permits issued

from 1972 through 2006. Some of you may want to avert your eyes, but they killed 2,190 mountain lions through those years, a couple of which attacked people.

David Walp  
Springfield

**A DIVIDED CITY**

I just got finished reading Kitty Piercy's State of the City speech and listening to the video online, and I've got to say it was nothing less than inspiring. I'm certain I wasn't the only one who was inspired by Piercy's speech, but I'm also sure that there are others who don't think she advocated for doing enough.

I was home in Eugene for a couple of weeks over Christmas break from school here at Utah State University. The whole time I was home I simply drank in all that is Eugene — from Smith Family to Holiday Market to LEAD's teen center and a protest against possible war with Iran. What an amazing place Eugene is. Then I'm struck with the ongoing difficulties with getting downtown to be a vital place, and I get frustrated.

While everyone who is butting heads over what to do with downtown Eugene is only trying to do what is best for a city they love, sometimes I think people loose perspective. I live in Logan, Utah right now — right behind a bustling downtown. The differences are so stark between Logan and Eugene, and it makes me wonder how a bunch of conservatives can make this happen, but a city known for its liberal stances can't fix its downtown. Sometimes people in Eugene lose perspective — forget the blessings they are surrounded by every day. Logan is a lovely place, and my Mormon friends couldn't be nicer — but I'm a peace and justice activist whose heart beats to a Eugene beat, not Logan one.

Maybe it's time for a bit of a compromise in downtown. Take your blessings, count them, and instead of protest, think about what would be good for everyone in town — maybe some of those righty developer types have some answers that could help. If you