

work with those righty developer types, all you lefties can teach them about sustainable building, getting vinyl out of buildings and all sorts of other good stuff. It would be good not for Eugene, but also everyone involved — bridge a divided city and let the world see it thriving.

*M. Brooke Robertshaw
Logan, Utah*

CYCLING'S DEMISE

Concerning Ryan Conrad's letter to the editor (12/27): I read his letter with a tears in my eyes. I didn't know that cycling was on the decline. As a dedicated cyclist, I never knew what was happening. Just this afternoon, I went over to the Eugene Public Library and looked at all the bicycles parked there in the rain. Now I realize that all those bicycles have been abandoned. I saw cyclists riding in the rain. Those cyclists must not know yet that cycling is finished.

The cycling craze must have been terrible for the driving public. They do not have to worry anymore now that cycling is history. I personally want to apologize to every motorist who ever witnessed a cyclist running a stop sign. It must have been terrible for guys like Ryan Conrad in his two tons of steel to be threatened by marauding cyclists. Now the ex-cycling community understands that motorists never ever break the law and are morally superior.

I personally have seen the error of my cycling ways. Tomorrow, I am going to buy myself a big gas-powered pickup truck. This truck will be the fastest vehicle on the road with high command seating. It has it has been very cold lately, so my truck will generate a lot of CO2 and warm up Eugene. I too will join the joyous flow of traffic around Eugene.

*Lee Norris
Eugene*

EASTSIDE ALTERNATIVE

In her description of possible scenarios regarding Eastside Alternative, Nancy Willard (1/3) continually emphasizes that the school is "highly segregated and elitist." What she fails to consider are the changes that would inevitably occur as Eastside and other alternative schools relocate to new neighborhoods and involve new families.

Schools have the potential to evolve and improve when innovation and flexibility are encouraged. The conscious and deep scrutiny by the district and by the schools themselves has already contributed to change in programs.

Hillside modified its program in response to the report from the Alternative School Review Committee and invigorated its curriculum in substantial and creative ways. Unfortunately, that school will be closed at the end of the year. Family School continually refers to its current population of students and families to include and respond to their needs. The program at Eastside, too, has evolved over the years.

Let's continue to examine why alternative schools have been so popular and successful for more than two decades. Let's encourage creative innovation, rather than maintain the narrow view that alternative schools are simply elite sanctuaries. Let's examine

factors that have led to economically unbalanced enrollment in alternative schools (i.e. lack of free transportation and outreach, clustering of alternative and charter schools, etc.) and carefully address those issues. None of the alternative schools expects or requires a specific, homogeneous population.

The goal we all share is the development of outstanding, innovative, responsive schools. It would be great if Nancy Willard engaged in promoting the successful aspects of alternative schools. Persevering on the view that schools are static institutions inhibits us from generating new and better programs that are accessible to all families.

*Judy Volem
Eugene*

SCHOOL ON THE MOVE

Eastside Elementary is indeed a school on the move. As an Eastside parent, I see this as a positive step in the growth of this unique learning community. Every day at Eastside, children are given opportunities for hands-on applied learning and come together in multi-age settings, where they solve problems, discuss social issues, foster their creative spirits, and are inspired to love learning. Eastside provides a flexible model where each student's needs can be individually addressed.

Fortunately, Eastside is here to stay. The district's review team determined that Eastside's instructional model is distinctive and its learning strategies provide an excellent education for all children. In an effort to make Eastside's education more available to a wider community, the school district has provided additional resources to enhance our ability to support the families and children of diverse backgrounds and skill levels.

And while we are not yet sure where Eastside will be located this fall, Superintendent Russell told the Eastside community that he would keep Eastside in south Eugene and would support the development of a kindergarten program at Eastside beginning in fall 2009.

School visitation time is near. I invite everyone to visit Eastside, learn more about our exciting program and meet Eastside parents and teachers, who work together as a team to create a learning community bursting with energy, enthusiasm, love and joy.

*Margie Kelly
Eastside Site Council parent member*

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

My comments on three bicycle-related letters (12/27):

In response to the person encouraging cyclists not to take up a full lane because it provokes "road rage," this person has obviously not cycled down the Willamette Street death-trap from 24th to 29th, where if you don't take over a full lane, cars will pass within inches. A recent amendment to Oregon law (ORS 811.485) makes it illegal for a vehicle to pass a cyclist without allowing for safe distance of at least 3 feet. By cycling on Willamette and not taking over a full lane, you encourage cars to illegally pass while endangering your own life. And if legally taking over a lane causes "road rage" in a motorist, how is that my problem?

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