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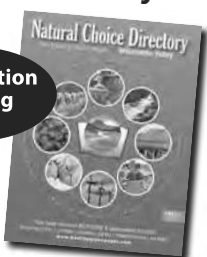
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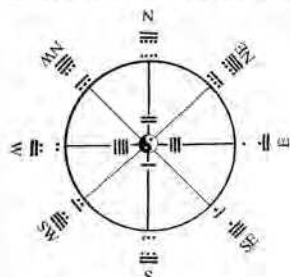
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transportation Plan for \$817 million more
in highway construction through the rest
of the oil era. Nice speeches distract from
governmental budgets.

It's good that the city of Eugene calls
itself the "Human Rights City" since
otherwise people might think the city
endorses fascism by subsidizing upcoming
Olympics games. The Beijing games is one
of the worst examples of fascism in sports
since the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Countless
Chinese citizens have been evicted from
their homes for Olympics facilities. Beijing
is installing an ultra-sophisticated Orwellian
surveillance system to suppress dissent.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

ELITIST STUDENTS

The solution for Eastside's problem
with getting along with Parker isn't a
move, especially not one that would force
at least one other successful school to
relocate. I'm willing to bet that the issues
are almost entirely due to Eastside students
(and parents) being elitist and unwilling to
interact respectfully with the neighborhood
school kids. Eastside needs to be told that
unless its students can learn to get along with
the other children, it will be closed. A move
because of a poor relationship between the
two schools would do nothing but reinforce
Eastside students' feelings of superiority:
they don't like being around "normal" kids,
so they get to go to somewhere else.

As a former Fox Hollow student, I

can vouch for the fact that alternative
schools breed arrogance in already affluent
population.

Bullying within the schools themselves
is common — kids are either "in" or they're
stigmatized horribly — so I can imagine
what it would be like if one building housed
an alternative school and a neighborhood
school.

The parents and staff are just as
resistant as students to "outsiders." When
I was at Fox Hollow, a parent proposed an
alternative to the annual fifth-grade Quebec
trip for those who couldn't afford it, saying
that there should be a democratic process
in making the decision. The parent who
was in charge of the trip said that she didn't
think it needed to be a democratic decision;
after all, anybody who mattered would be
wealthy enough to put their 11-year-old
child on a plane to Canada.

When a student is having trouble socially
or academically, the staff is unresponsive.
There seems to be a general philosophy that
if a kid has a problem, it's their fault, never
that of their teachers or classmates.

Obviously Fox Hollow is not Eastside,
and of course not all students at alternative
schools are elitist like this, but I've known
plenty of Eastside graduates from Roosevelt
and South, and the majority of them
have been awfully similar to the French
Immersion kids. They're cliquish, they have
no qualms about bullying "normal" kids
and, not surprisingly, they quickly group
together with the Frenchies.

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