

technology, the security risk is basically zero.

In future years the prisons could be increased in size, providing a neighborhood economic engine for years to come!

Perhaps at the entrance to each prison we could place a small historical plaque with a note memorializing the old run-down buildings that were gladly mowed down to make way for progress. Although it's hard to imagine, some old fogies might want to remember the past, and these plaques might satisfy them and help convince them to support the project.

Blake Andrews
Eugene

SHODDY STADIUM

Yes, the Blue Monster must go! It's about time that the Civic Stadium eyesore, the defacto heart of summertime downtown, gives way to something with much better bathrooms. Imagine the cool tax breaks our city will be able to give to some multi-million-dollar corporate developer to slap up a strip-mall or a Wal-Mart or a root-canal clinic on the site. Imagine what great parking they'll have, what great bathrooms! Those medical clinic bathrooms are amazing!

No more crowds of people marching together through the neighborhood from their far-flung secret parking spots of a summer's eve. No more bleacher seating where you have to rub elbows with the riff-raff. Bleachers are for poor people and losers. The new stadium will have a nice big cement parking lot and sky boxes and real seats so you won't have to meet anyone you might not like.

What's more, instead of those horrid hot-dog and beer stalls which contribute so heavily to the shoddy stadium experience we've endured for too many years, there will be a beautiful new concession area with character and personality, like the food court at the Denver airport. And did I mention the bathrooms? Oh my god, the bathrooms! The bathrooms are gonna be world class!

But here's the best part: no more dirt and no more grass! Playing baseball on grass and dirt is for old fogies and Luddites! C'mon people, get a grip! The new stadium will feature Astro-turf field and base paths (gorgeous doormat green and baby-poop brown, respectively). No more smudgy chalk lines. No more sliding into second in a cloud of dust.

I can't wait. And speaking of can't wait, the new bathrooms are gonna be awesome.

Billy Barnett
Eugene

HANDY WALKS THE TALK

Recently I had the pleasure of accompanying Rob Handy as he walked the neighborhood and introduced himself to voters.

In an exemplary display of genuine democracy, Handy is running a grassroots campaign for the north Lane County Commissioner seat. He is visiting and talking to individual voters face to face, instead of the incumbent's practice of accepting a few large donations from special interests.

I was impressed with Handy's knowledge and experience as he explained his views. But I was even more impressed with his sensitivity and dedication to public service as he listened to people's concerns.

Rob Handy will do an excellent job of representing the people of our district as county commissioner. He will bring decades of knowledge and experience in Lane County matters along with fairness and intelligence. He has the energy to get the job done and won't be caught napping in his office.

Beverly Barr
Eugene

ADAMS EXCELS

EW has done a fine job of presenting the issues and opportunities regarding Superintendent George Russell's recommendations for 4J's "Schools of the Future." But in Alan Pittman's March 6 article "Schools Choice vs. Equity," he implies that students at Adams Elementary, with a 59 percent Free and Reduced Lunch, don't learn as much as students at other schools. This is NOT the case.

Ninety-six percent of students at Adams met or exceeded the reading benchmark (district average was 86 percent). Seventy-nine percent met or exceeded in math (district average was 77 percent) in the 2006-7 school year. In the 2005-06 school year, 99 percent met or exceeded in reading, 93 percent in math.

Adams is a highly successful school, clearly disproving the misconception that our neighborhood schools are lesser than the alternative schools. Adams teachers are masters of differentiated curriculum, individually meeting the needs of each student. Adams is also noted for its success in closing the achievement gap — the difference between scores of low income students meeting standards and the scores of all students.

I am weary of the suggestion that Adams' small enrollment reflects that something is

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