

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

expecting something ugly, it turns ugly. The result is anger, distrust, disrespect and reinforced expectations of more ugliness.

The cycle of ugliness is difficult to break, especially when orders from their superiors force our police to imbue trouble into a situation where trouble was not necessary. Fascism requires the repression of those who challenge business and industry, yet business and industry must be challenged.

Ugliness seems to be growing at an exponential rate, if it is not put in check it will consume the entire world. To end the cycles of ugliness we must end the paradigm of fascism, and we must treat each other with compassion and respect.

Question: What do reckless cops and drunk drivers have in common? Answer: They all needlessly endanger themselves and others.

Fabian Lawrence
Cottage Grove

KNEE-JERK PAPER

Wow. The contrasting images of the recent issues covering the Olympic Trials (6/26) and the Country Fair (7/10) taken together present a sharply pointed editorial opinion, to be kind about it. It seems your paper represents a knee-jerk alternative viewpoint in regards to just about every topic you choose to present. While not being a jock or a UO apologist, I do not see the need or usefulness for such a mean-spirited take on the Trials. I imagine Alan "Pit-bull" Pittman fancies he is building up quite a résumé to pitch to the Village Voice someday.

Pardon the cynicism on my part and accept my fondest hopes that you can be a balanced community voice and not leftist infotainment. And this from an old Buddhist beatnik! Please!

Kyoho Tom Agterberg
Eugene

CONNECT THE PATHS

With gas prices soaring, Eugene should make immediate improvements to its bicycle infrastructure. The city relies almost entirely on bike lanes that put cyclists directly alongside traffic. While there are several off-road, safe bike paths (Amazon, Fern Ridge, the River Trail), surprisingly, they are not connected! The Amazon Trail, for example, dead ends at South Eugene High School, a few blocks from the UO to the east and the River Trail to the north. This is a waste of public investment.

The city has designated certain streets as bike-friendly by limiting auto access and lowering speed limits. Conditions on these streets may be reasonably safe for adults, but not for families commuting their kids in pull-along Burleys. One accidental swipe of a car can end in tragedy for a family. Many parents don't want to take that risk.

The city should create more paths that are completely separate from traffic. In the interim, the city could connect the existing paths by temporarily closing a traffic lane on a quiet street and creating a physical barrier between the auto and bike traffic. As car traffic decreases and bike traffic increases, this improvement reflects a realistic adjustment in citizens' transportation infrastructure needs. New York City is closing a five-mile

thoroughfare from [lower] Manhattan to Central Park as a pilot project that may lead to regular street closings.

While Eugene is in the process of formulating a long-term bicycle strategy, making interim connections between the existing paths is necessary now.

Mary Wood
Eugene

JAIL TIME

Back when I was a big-city bus driver, I had a street-level view of police officers performing their duties, which included helping me deal with armed and threatening passengers. I have much respect for those officers who make every effort to do a good job to protect and serve — that is, most every officer. So, when I read in the July 5 *Register-Guard* that those arrested here for violent crimes are often released from jail much, much sooner than they should ever be, due to overcrowding resulting from voters' unwillingness to adequately fund law enforcement, I understand why morale at Eugene's Police Department is low. These are real criminals being let go, back onto Eugene streets, into Eugene's neighborhoods to commit more criminal acts — criminals our police officers will again risk it all to apprehend again and jail again.

Some of those released probably move on to another town or state. They are not being followed or tracked so who knows where they go? Real criminals, not imaginary boogymen, are being released way too soon from our county jail into downtown Eugene. Hello? Do you care?

Looking at our City Hall and cramped central police station, one sees another reason for low morale. That very energy-inefficient, unattractive building needs to be replaced with an environmentally sound structure worthy of citizens' and city employees' pride.

I think concerned citizens need to press for immediate, emergency funds for our county jail, so those arrested for violent offenses are not soon released back out into our community. If we taxpayers can ever so happily fund a part of the UO's new stadium's construction costs, then surely we can find the money to at least increase jail capacity.

Charles F. Thielman
Eugene

FAIR TAXES

Some taxes are fair and some are regressive, hurting low and middle-income families. I guess there are still Bobby Green supporters writing letters and crying that he was brave to stand up and be counted for a flat and regressive tax. The majority of our citizens were wise enough to vote against a flat tax. Considerations of basic needs must be part of any tax structure. What we need is fair tax reform to support the county, but we will never get it from Green.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

KEEPING IT FREE

Regarding all the objections to the advertising in *Eugene Weekly*: I'm sure those with objections to the less-than-pious advertisers in *EW* are intelligent people, but



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