

Something Eug!



Does it not worry you that the interests of the chemical industry, the timber industry and corporate agribusiness weigh heavier on the Eugene Police Department than the interests and health of the citizens of the Willamette Valley? To be a citizen, an active member of the democratic process, means standing up and being counted. What you are advocating is to simply lie down as sheep in the wolf's den.

Waging a public protest on a sidewalk in a public square is not a criminal act in a dark alley. It is the single most patriotic thing we as citizens of this country can do. Doesn't it give you some pause to know that agents of Homeland Security were the ones to call in the cops because of the threat to the concerns of the chemical and timber industries? Is the Pitchfork Rebellion or OSPIRG really so great a threat to business as usual in this new fashioned fascism, or are they the harbingers of greater threats to the corporate state, so much so that they are deemed dangerous enough to stop by any means necessary by the hands of local thugs dressed in police uniform? Any rational person should be greatly disturbed when a young man is thrown to the ground, dragged by his hair and then Tasered multiple times. He was no more responsible than you or I who write our thoughts here for the public to read. Any rational human being who still has an ounce of humanity or conscience should be appalled by your duplicitous rationale.

Jonathan Seraphim
Eugene

TAXPAYER EXPENSE

I just read *Free Lunch* by David Cay Johnston, who has visited Eugene to give revealing speeches on how the wealthiest Americans enrich themselves at taxpayer expense. It is all in his book and I only wish everyone in Eugene could read how hidden subsidies are always there for posh golf courses, elaborate police equipment such as rolling jails and SWAT accessories, and magnificent developer projects. Every time I drive the unnecessary and elaborate new 6th Avenue by Hogan's Palace I can't help but think of how many potholes it

would have filled.

Johnson concludes that a free lunch always becomes very expensive to the taxpayer, and if our elected representatives were well paid and they revealed all their expenses, it would soon end. He has given up on campaign finance reform and this is where I strongly disagree.

Arizona has made real progress with their public financing of elections with laws that appear to avoid the federal loopholes allowing outside groups to raise huge funds for elections. It is past time for changes in our election process and this book has many reasons why but not how.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

BICYCLIST BLUES

It is with great interest that I follow the on-going bicyclists vs. motorists debate. For 10 years I have commuted around Eugene almost exclusively on bike, a little by bus, and even less in cars. Having spent the majority of my childhood and adolescence on Southern California freeways, I feel very fortunate to live in a town that's extremely accessible using alternative transportation.

Shuttling the kids to school or hauling materials to a work site is one thing; yet, every day I watch people drive to the corner store for a six-pack, for example. I've watched my neighbors get DUIs because evidently, the \$6 cab ride from downtown was too expensive. You'd think the absurd increase in gas prices would make a difference, but they don't.

I know and obey traffic laws, yet I'm constantly subjected to harassment by both motorists and worse of all, cops. If I ride in the street, which I try to avoid (I've been hit many times), cars pose a great danger. Cops pull me over when I ride on the sidewalk. I can't win.

When will we realize that bicyclists aren't the problem? I ride for my health, out of convenience, and out of disgust for the oil war. Sorry, I thought that made me part of the solution. Wrong again!

Sabrina McNamara
Eugene

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