

UNRELENTING BRUTALITY

I was pleased to see the letter by Valori George wondering why Americans are standing passively by as Gaza is besieged by Israel. I wonder also.

This December an Israeli drone fired a missile toward a group of Gazan children, killing two boys (blowing one to bits) and injuring two others. Yet another statistic representing Israel's 60 years of *Nakba* is the unrelenting, brutal dispossession of Palestine's 94 percent indigenous 1948 population including 33 massacres, 531 ethnically cleansed villages and more than four million U.N.-registered refugees to date.

In 2006, Israel blocked Nobel laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the U.N. appointed head of a fact-finding mission, from investigating the killing of 19 Palestinians in Gaza. Also denied Gaza entry recently was Jewish-American Richard Falk, U.N. special rapporteur for human rights in Palestinian territories. Falk said the civilian population in Gaza was "being collectively punished by policies that amount to a crime against humanity." He proposed that the International Court "determine whether the Israeli civilian leaders and military commanders responsible for the Gaza siege should be indicted and prosecuted for violations of international criminal law."

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions director Jeff Halper, recently returned from the first boat lift breaking Israel's siege on Gaza, describes on www.pdxjustice.org how Israel's "warehousing" of Palestinians reflects an on-going strategy of *nishul*, Hebrew for displacement. Halper's detailed "Matrix of Control" analysis reveals how Israel progressively "wipes Palestine off the map."

Mariah Leung
Eugene

LOOK AT MY RECORD

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to Camilla Mortensen's article (News Briefs) Dec. 24. Mortensen's and Josh Schlossberg's questions about Homeland Security can easily be answered by looking at my voting record. I voted against the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, against the misnamed PATRIOT and Protect America acts that gave the Bush administration unchecked power to spy on Americans, against warrantless wiretapping and against immunity for telecommunication companies that helped Bush carry out his domestic spy program. The agency did not need and did not seek my permission in advance, nor are they required to consult with any member of the legislative branch regarding their day-to-day operations. Additionally, the surveillance was legal thanks to the broad powers granted by a Republican Congress.

The Homeland Security Committee has oversight capabilities that have been curtailed by an unresponsive Bush administration. For example, in 2007 and 2008 the Bush administration denied me access to classified information about the White House plan for operating the government after a terrorist attack despite repeated requests and having the support

of the committee chair.

Obama's team is already taking a look at all of the Bush administration's executive orders. Hopefully, the most questionable ones will be repealed with a stroke of the new president's pen next month. It is my belief President-elect Obama will work more cooperatively with the Homeland Security other congressional committees. I also my hope his administration won't see individuals' constitutional rights being in conflict with national security concerns.

Finally, I hope *EW* will seek a comment from my office before going to print on such stories.

Rep. Peter DeFazio
Springfield

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our reporter did leave a message at DeFazio's Washington, D.C., office Dec. 22, but did not receive a call back either before or after deadline. More often than not, we do get calls returned from DeFazio's office. A DeFazio aide says they have no record of Schlossberg's six months of calls and faxes, except for one.

DOESN'T COMPUTE

In response to two letters by Jeff Innis, Dec. 18, and John Hickam, Dec. 24, regarding proposed LTD service cuts and the latest West Eugene EmX extension boondoggle, I agree! Why be cutting service and eliminating routes right and left due to a lack of operational money, while at the same time planning a \$50 million plus BRT route that will eliminate more routes (i.e., through replacement)? How does this compute?

And yes, contact Congressman DeFazio; he's chair of the Surface Transportation Sub-Committee. Be heard and he will respond, I guarantee it (from experience).

The federal government provides money for capital projects (i.e., construction of new facilities and routes and the purchase of new buses for said projects), and does not fund operating costs. Maybe our voices can be heard by pushing for a change in the fed's subsidies, and have them subsidize mass transit operational costs like in many other countries.

EmX is *not* needed if connector routes are not kept or created! So why spend all of that money if you can't get to the bus?


Jozef Sikiel-Zdzienicki
Eugene

IT'S NOT EASY TO ASK

I feel the new ordinance in Cottage Grove is most certainly aimed at getting rid of panhandlers in their town. To try to claim it is about road safety is dishonest and insulting. At least be honest in your intentions.

I understand that many emotions come up when someone asks you face-to-face for money. One might feel anger, guilt, misplaced anger perhaps, concern, sympathy, compassion, empathy and maybe even complicity over aiding in another's addiction. Of late I personally try to not over-analyze this or even judge someone I certainly know nothing about. When I am asked for money, if I have it, I give some spare change. If perhaps I feel a bit more ahead at that moment, I give a dollar or two. And if I have no cash I can still wish them well, acknowledge them and share a smile and kind thought.


9 Locations in Eugene and Springfield



BURRITO AMIGOS PRACTICES SUSTAINABILITY BY MAKING AVAILABLE TO ALL STAFF:

Health Benefits, Retirement Programs, 0% Payday Loans, Free Meal at Work (with a min. 4 hour work shift), And we give married staff 1 day off together per week when possible.

ON NOW! JANUARY SPECIAL \$5.75
Cheese Quesadilla w/ Chips & Salsa



Now enrolling K-5 for September

INTRODUCTION TOURS
Wed. Jan 14 Feb. 4 6-8 pm

Come meet our teachers, see our classrooms and talk with a parent.

2809 Shirley St. (off Irving Rd.) 689-5255


dgschool.org

NOTICE of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students: The Drinking Gourd School admits students and families of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities available at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs or any other school-administered programs.

WHAT WASHINGTON NEEDS IS ADULT SUPERVISION. - BARACK OBAMA

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN

INAUGURAL PEACE BALL



TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009
6PM 9PM

FEATURING THE **THE SUGAR BEETS** FROM 7PM-9PM
HOSTED BY SLUG QUEEN BANANITA SLUGINSKY
UPDATE ON DEPT. OF PEACE CAMPAIGN, SURPRISE GUESTS AND MORE.
BENEFIT FOR REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL • WWW.REFUGEESINTERNATIONAL.ORG
\$10-50 SLIDING SCALE
ATTIRE: FORMAL PEACEWEAR.
IT'S A BALL, AFTER ALL!

COZMIC PIZZA
199 WEST 8TH AVENUE • EUGENE
FOR MORE INFO: 541-343-7970

BUSINESS SPONSORS: EUGENE WEEKLY, QSL PRINTING, BIG CHICKEN MEDIA