

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

put napkins in the bag. Why don't you get a life or bake your own food and quit sniveling?

Brian Palmer
Eugene

TAX REVOLT

Sue Barnhart's letter (2/26) challenges taxpayers to think about how their tax dollars are spent. That thinking should include looking at wars where those tax dollars bring pain and death to non-belligerents. If we realize that we add our tax dollars to the \$500,000 our nation spends per minute on the Iraq War (American Friends Service Committee), then we have to consider our role in destruction and carnage.

Refusing to pay a poll tax to protest the Mexican War, Thoreau maintained that, "If a thousand men [and women] were not to pay their tax-bills this year, that would not be a bloody and violent measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood."

If you are troubled by paying taxes during wartime, you can join discussion from 5 to 7 pm on the third Mondays of the month at the New Day Bakery. At that time you can learn about the 2009 War Tax Boycott, or you can go to www.wartaxboycott.org

Erik Muller
Eugene

GOLDEN GARDEN PARK

I am one of the fathers who lost our dear first son Nicholas Davis and our dear nephew Britton Shephard Davis out in West Eugene's Golden Garden Park back on June 19, 2005, due to a drowning accident.

You published a very important and accurate article (1/12/06) about this place by Ben Meyers that I just found on the Internet and would like to thank you very much for bringing it to the attention of the citizens. If I would have known of all the drownings that had occurred in this place since 1972, like I know now, I can assure you Nick and Britton would be here today.

I think it is only right that the citizens of this community know exactly what has transpired in this place over the past three decades, and what's going to happen there for the next three as well. I just recently found out that due to the much appreciated efforts from the city of Eugene and many, many citizens of Bethel, first phase improvements at Golden Garden Park that the voters of Eugene passed in 2006 are about to be completed. It just so happens they are having their Golden Garden Park open house June 25, exactly four years to the day the Davis family buried our two boys.

I'm not sure yet if I will be attending, but I do hope it is a very rewarding experience for all who were involved and supported the Davis family with all of our efforts of making Golden Garden Park a safer place for all of Eugene — in honor of all the precious lives that were lost and the people who made the improvements happen.

Kim Davis
Eugene

HOW ABOUT KRVM?

The cover story March 12, "Launch Pad: Eugene's potent music scene," mentions that KWVA and KLCC support local musicians. This of course is a good thing, but nothing was ever mentioned about KRVM 91.9 FM which is a Eugene local public radio station

that has been here for over 60 years. The oldest FM station in the Northwest. KRVM has supported local musicians for many years.

Matter of fact, it was the first in Eugene to do so. My show of almost 20 years features many local musicians, as well as many other shows on KRVM.

I just want to give credit where credit is due! It just didn't seem right to mention the other two stations without giving KRVM the recognition!

Rock-N-Rome (Hamel) of KRVM
Eugene

NO ECONOMIC CRISIS

My definition of crisis is: The river is rising, the valley is flooding — everybody start filling sand bags. In a crisis everybody knows what is going on and pitches in to help.

We have no economic crisis. We have an economic problem. And we elect leaders to deal with problems. I believe if you look at our leaders' actions they will tell you this is not a crisis. The Republicans are dragging their feet and playing politics as usual.

Peter DeFazio states, "wait a week or two." (R-G 2/14). This is not someone in crisis mode.

In dealing with this economic problem might I suggest looking at new revenue sources. I would suggest to our elected leaders in Salem and Washington to look at legalizing marijuana and taxing non-profits such as churches.

The fact that our elected leaders are not looking at these two new revenue sources confirms my belief that there is no economic crisis.

Chris Pender
Eugene

PROTECT OUR INVESTMENT

We now have another multi-billion dollar stimulus package. It appears that little of it goes to help cut the cost of health care in Lane County. In the July 24, 2008 issue of *EW* it was stated that Blue Cross announced a 26 percent rate hike. In addition it was cited that expensive hospital projects are a prime driver in rapidly increasing health costs.

Can we afford the new hospital at RiverBend? The cost estimate in 2005 was \$350 million. The actual 2008 cost was \$567 million. Adding to this bill could be the "tear down" of the Hilyard Street Sacred Heart building from 432 beds to 104 beds. This needed approval, by the state, to "restrain health care costs." The approved cost, in 2006 was \$23.7 million. Now the estimated cost is \$97.7 million.

This is a "nonprofit" hospital that has not paid property tax for more than 50 years. It also was built with the aid of federal funding. The *people* own a part of it. Our elected representatives needs to step forward and protect our investment. We could use some of the stimulus money and make this a much needed combination downtown community-owned and Veterans Hospital.

Ron Davis
Cottage Grove

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. E-mail to letters@eugeneweekly.com, com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

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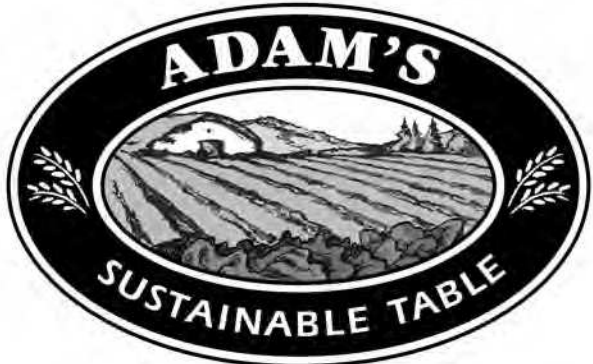
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