

cops, be sure to remember that cops have the legal power for making life and death decisions; clerks do not. Shouldn't they be held to a higher standard than clerks, or for that matter "hippies and activists"? And the last time I checked, becoming a Eugene police officer was a voluntary act; if the beat is too hard, there are lots of gigs to be had elsewhere.

Jeff Innis
Eugene

IN DEFENSE OF DANIEL

I find it hard to excuse the complete ignorance, shoddy journalism and sycophantic pro-police state ramblings of Mary Mainenti (letters, 5/28) espousing how dangerous it is to be a cop in Eugene with terrorists running around the likes of Daniel McGowan. Apart from the overlooked fact that crime has been going down in Eugene for years inversely proportional to funds demanded by police, jails and prison guards, Mainenti did not even bother to read the next sentence in the article she quoted from DemocracyNow.org (June 11, 2007). In the interview with social and environmental activist Daniel McGowan, she would have discovered (to paraphrase Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center) that this was the "first time in U.S. history terrorism enhancement was sought for U.S. citizens charged with property crimes who caused no harm to human life." The National Lawyers Guild called the terrorism enhancement "an unnecessary and excessive government tactic to discourage free speech."

The dragnet that was Operation Backfire and the resulting "Green Scare" sent a chill trickling down the spine of the entire environmental movement. More draconian powers were soon added to allow the government to spy on all Americans. Attorney General Gonzalez went on TV using the word "ecoterrorists" to describe the arrestees who were, heretofore, innocent until proven guilty.

Reading further in the same article, Mainenti could have caught a glimpse of the remarkable character evidenced in McGowan, who took full responsibility for his actions as a lookout during the fires but would not point a finger at anyone except himself. No one was hurt in any of the actions, and McGowan said, "We took extreme precautions in these actions so we wouldn't harm anyone." At the time of his arrest on December 7, 2005, McGowan was earning a master's in acupuncture and working at WomensLaw.org – a nonprofit that helps abused women navigate the legal system. McGowan has also worked on counter military recruitment efforts, supporting political prisoners, community organizing coast to coast and facilitating the free markets in his New York neighborhood. His absence has created a hole in the many communities he touched that will never be filled by one person.

A.F. Nash
Eugene

FUNKY IS BEAUTIFUL

I don't even know where to begin. There are so many directions to take on the topic of Civic Stadium. I guess a good place to begin is with the past, the present and the future.

Not necessarily the stadium's past, but mine. I have been going to baseball games with my family at Civic as long as I can remember, as a child and now as a parent. Now that I have children of my own, I look so forward to June, when we can go make new memories and learn more about America's favorite pastime. The future is part of the past, and the past is part of the future.

If Civic Stadium with its old wood benches and its steep wooden stairs isn't here for my family, I will feel like a part of America has been taken away.

Please, don't update the stadium and make it "new" or "improved." Don't "update" anything. In fact, the worn-out benches, railings, steps and toilets

are what keep the stadium perfect. They also keep the pride of knowing it is an old stadium and not a new one.

Civic Stadium is a great place to take a date, great place to forget the worries of the world and a safe and fun place to take the family — no matter if it's a mom and dad taking their small children or a son taking his cane-using dad.

It is a wonderful, absolutely not upscale, evening of memories.

Brenda Royce
Springfield

CORRECT IMPACT

Every day, my commute takes me by the UO basketball stadium under construction. Recently, I have been met by a Delta Sand and Gravel dump truck that is bellowing out thick black smoke causing me to roll up my car windows and shut down my car's ventilation from taking in outside air. Every gear that these dump trucks change results in a fresh batch of thick black smoke floating east to west down Franklin Boulevard.

Dump trucks would not normally bother me; however, Delta's trucks appear to be older dump trucks that are probably not well maintained. This would undoubtedly lead to dump trucks appearing more like smoke stacks than utility vehicles.

It was my understanding that the basketball arena was to have minimal environmental impact on the surrounding areas. I don't think a dump truck that is spewing an unusual amount of black smoke, while not covering their dirt payloads, constitutes minimal environmental impact.

I called Delta on June 2 to express my concerns. Their response was one of absolute silence. I thought my cell phone had disconnected. When I inquired about whether or not someone was on the line, the gentleman stated he would register the complaint. I'm not sure what this means.

Anyway, as a taxpayer, I would hope the city of Eugene is maintaining proper

oversight regarding its obligation to ensure this construction has minimal environmental impact. Thank you.

Sam Parker
Eugene

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

The Lane County charter requires the county to provide a comprehensive level and variety of services for its residents. The County Budget Committee has responsibility for attempting to fund these programs in a prudent and responsible way, given the dearth of revenue currently available. I believe they acted in the best long-range interests of the county by not funding jail beds at the expense of other programs. Commissioners Handy and Sorensen went to the City of Eugene asking for help with funding of Human Services and jail beds and are negotiating with the City to seek a compromise that will allow partial restoration of these services.

The Register-Guard has been remiss in not reporting all of the factual information the Budget Committee used in reaching their decision. The paper and letters to the editor are harshly critical of the commissioners and committee members who voted no. At the same time, their editorial (Saturday, May 23) supports delay of Measure 57. Apparently the *Guard* wants it both ways. Virulent letters to the editor only invite divisiveness. Let's work together for solutions that benefit all Lane County citizens.

Pat Reilly
Eugene

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NATURAL RESISTANCE

BY MARY O'BRIEN

Mine Over Matter

The price we pay for 'cheap' energy

Here's one small, stark example of our ongoing descent into coal hell. As staff with Grand Canyon Trust, I deal with management choices by the three national forests in the southern half of Utah. One of those forests, the Manti-La Sal, includes large deposits of coal.

Perhaps you heard of and remember the Crandall Canyon mine collapse in 2007, which killed six miners and three rescuers. That was on the Manti-La Sal NF. Mine owner Robert Murray, who had previously and was subsequently fined for mine safety violations, blamed the mountain: "Had I known that this evil mountain, this alive mountain, would do what it did, I would never have sent the miners in here. I'll never go near that mountain again," he said.

In fact, the mountain had collapsed because Murray was hollowing out its innards. The miners were working for him 5.6 miles in from the mine entrance. The longwall mining Murray was ordering is a form of what is called subsidence mining, because mountains, being mountains rather than being evil, subside into mine cavities. A longwall panel of coal that is being mined is typically 1-2 miles long and 750-1,200 feet wide.

Now it's 2009. There's a new Manti-La Sal NF proposal for longwall mining, called the Greens Hollow Coal Lease Tract, with the final decisions to be made by Bureau of Land Management (which leases mines on national forest lands),

U.S. Forest Service (which approves leases), and the state of Utah (which gives away water rights).

The Greens Hollow Coal Lease Tract is adjacent to three other coal mines on one particular district of the Manti-La Sal NF. Mining within the nearby Pines Coal Lease Tract recently resulted in E. Fork Box Creek, several springs, and wetlands on Wildcat Knolls disappearing down cracks after the mountain sunk down toward the mine void. Peatlike wetland soils on the plateau shriveled. Wildcat Knolls holds one of only two year-round, struggling greater sage grouse populations on the Manti-La Sal NF. Greater sage grouse are candidates for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species because grazing, oil and gas developments, and other developments have depleted their populations.

Now the Manti-La Sal is proposing to build 15 miles of pipeline to bring water from Quitcupah Creek up onto the dewatered, stressed Wildcat Knolls, to provide two 15 by 15-ft. fenced wet spots for sage grouse to use and 11 water troughs so cattle can eat the plants sage grouse need for food and cover.

In its environmental document for the proposed new Greens Hollow coal mine, the Forest says upper Muddy Creek, where the federally threatened Colorado cutthroat trout swims, might be dewatered. Oh, and the dozen springs that are connected to wetlands on the plateau might disappear — forever. Oh, and also, the mine will drain an aquifer of 7,000 year old water.

The coal will then be burned, increasing global warming, which will raise temperatures and increase droughts on the same plateau that may be dewatered by the mine.

Some mountains just don't know how to take care of themselves.

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