

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

of the Year material? Warden's comrades seem to think so because he received the award. Some of us are reminded of a pepper-spray incident back in 1997 on nonviolent protesters, which led a brutal force-using officer into the award light. What if we rewarded every officer who used excessive, painful force on nonviolent protesters? Do we want this behavior to continue and escalate until we're in a world like George Orwell's *1984*, where the role of police isn't enforcing the law anymore, but controlling and overpunishing? No way, José.

I originally thought moving the cop shop out of downtown would be a bad idea because of how much of the city's reserves it will eat up, but it's starting to sound better and better. They couldn't hastily bust up a nonviolent protest and hurt innocent people in a matter of a few minutes. When they do act out with excessive force, it kind of makes me wonder what The Man is up to. Why can't people get together and voice their opinion? Is free speech going to be taken away entirely?

Let's not dwell on a doomed future if we can change the present! Alone, I am one kid, but with you and YOU and YOU we can email, write letters, make signs, speak on the street (watch out!), talk to friends, make a petition, do whatever it takes to revoke Judd Warden's unjustly received Officer of the Year Award and set an example that Eugene citizens respect and *deserve* peaceful means of dealing with peaceful matters.

Haley Wagon
Veneta

KNEW IT ALL ALONG

When I worked at a U.S. courthouse as a night janitor, there was armed private

security, backed up by the Federal Protective Service. FPS involvement in brutalizing Van Ornum might not have been such a raw abuse of power had it not been for the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Although I did not know any specifics — such as which date — *I knew* that a plane was to be hijacked, because I knew the method utilized was to be used.

About a year before that day, I was thinking of taking a flight. The airline brochure read that some knives were permitted. So under the federal Freedom of Information Act, I pulled documentation from the FAA as to what those regulations were.

I was aghast to learn that the only regulation was blade length. I've done enough construction to imagine what a utility knife could do to human flesh. So I called the FAA and was put through to one of their federal agents. I told the agent what was going to happen; his reply was, "You let us worry about that."

I regret that I did not do more; I did all I thought of at the time.

Kevin Russell
Eugene

POLICE PRECEDENCE

There used to be a day when you could join the school football team or be in the school band or in art class (or even have enough materials for school work), but soon you won't. The Oregon Legislature reduced the amount of funding for all the schools because the state is bringing in less and less money. In the last year alone, Oregon's school funding cuts have reached into the billions.

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