

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To complete ORI and another project, the UO was granted a three-year extension of the RRP's conditional use permit. That decision is now, regrettably, under appeal. There has never been a more critical time to elevate and integrate the UO's and community's efforts supporting the ties of research to economic development.

*Diane Wiley
Riverfront Research Park Director
University of Oregon*

POOR TRACK RECORD

I remember when the UO unveiled their plan for a research park along the banks of the Willamette River back in the 1980s. They had plans for a dozen buildings near the river. Advocates for the Riverfront Research Park told us how the economy would flourish with emerging high-tech public/private ventures by bringing thousands of new jobs to the area.

Twenty years later, despite years of public subsidy through urban renewal taxes, only two of those buildings have been built with only a fraction of the promised jobs. Rather than spawning start-ups or attracting research firms from other parts of the country, many of the tenants have been existing businesses that merely relocated to the RRP without adding any new jobs to the economy.

With such a poor track record, what can we expect from the UO if they are granted an extension to their expired permit? Will they actually be able to deliver? Or will Eugene taxpayers continue to subsidize the UO's "fancy" plans? It's time to pull the plug. A lot has changed since the 1980s, both economically and environmentally, and we need a new perspective for our city's long-term development and preservation needs.

*Wren Davidson
Eugene*

UNFORTUNATE SITE

I'm glad that Oregon Research Institute wants to build an energy-efficient building for their researchers. This will create jobs for the construction industry. It's unfortunate, however, that ORI and the UO made plans to build along the Willamette River just before the Riverfront Research Park's conditional use permit was set to expire. To begin development between the railroad tracks and the river on public property after 20 years of inactivity and without meaningful stakeholder engagement is an invitation for opposition.

There's no reason a green building couldn't be built in another location and employ just as many construction workers. If the UO and ORI worked together to find a suitable site that wasn't controversial, our community could be united in supporting these distinguished institutions' efforts to contribute to our local economy, while we also engage in a constructive civic dialogue about the future of our riverfront.

*Jill Schwab
Eugene*

PETTY CRIME

I hope the parking meter incident sheds some light on how our City Council treats its citizens.

Wasting valuable time and resources on a decent man whose only crime was swearing at the meter lady after he was harangued for doing the right thing in paying the time for other vehicles is absolutely ridiculous.

In the mind of Mayor Piercy, it seems, mouthing off against a city employee requires police enforcement. But property crimes, murders, rapes and theft have no need of bothering with law enforcement.

And they wonder why nobody will invest in the downtown.

*Ryan Mitchell
Eugene*

NEW GENERATION SPEAKS

The UO is trying to defend that its 20-year-old permit to build an office building next to the river is still valid. I don't expect the UO to involve students every time they have a concerns about an issue, but I was too young to talk when the UO decided to develop the Riverfront Research Park. Whether they get approval for their permit or not, they're missing the point.

Listen up! To be good a citizen of the community, the UO needs to acknowledge that things have changed enormously since 1988. The Agripac plant is now the U.S. Courthouse, EWEB will soon be apartments and shops and alternative transportation is becoming mainstream. But most important, people today — and especially students — have a stronger passion than ever about protecting the environment.

I'm sure that in the '80s students and faculty spoke about protecting the riverfront for future generations. Well, I am the future generation and I can talk now. I'm here to tell you that students still don't want the university building along the Willamette River!

*Angela Stelson
Eugene*

STAND UP, SPEAK OUT

As long as mainstream media and governments are bought out by Big Money industries and individuals, we won't have equal pay, equal treatment, access to affordable health care, peace or a path to ecological healing.

The power is in the hands of the greedy who are "ego sick." This has been going on for thousands of years, but now the biosphere of the Earth cannot sustain us for much longer. Time is running out.

The good news is there are more people who truly care for each other than those who are greedy. "They got the guns but we got the numbers," as the song goes. All life is interconnected. No species exists alone, especially humans. We must stand up, speak out and choose love over fear. Show the children the path of integrity.

Boycott their products, run for office, put your money in local credit unions, support local, sustainable businesses as much as possible. Grow your own food. Stop consuming junk from China, all that plastic, toxic dreck. We are the ones who must make the shift happen.

*Pam Driscoll
Dexter*

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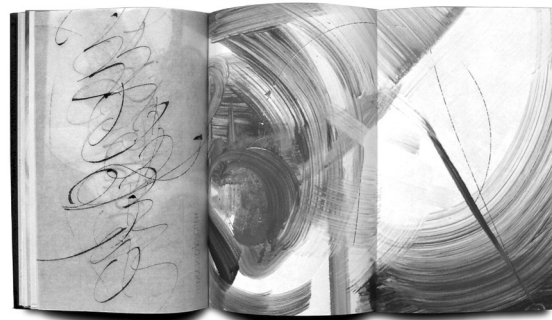
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Time Present ©Suzanne Moore

Suzanne Moore, painter and lettering artist

February 4, 2010

7:30 p.m.

177 Lawrence Hall

1190 Franklin Blvd., UO Campus

This event is free and open to the public. For information, or for disability accommodations, call (541) 346-3934. ohc.uoregon.edu



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