

Some old raver, furry, green, floppy hats, pajamas, etc., playing hacky sack across the street from the library. Conscientious moms with dreadlocks, affectionate dads with Mohawks and piercings. Lots of street musicians.

I've also witnessed stellar human beings employed by the Eugene Public Library effectively interacting with these creative young people by setting a positive example, communicating, almost serving as guidance counselors: a stout-hearted guy named Greg in his black uniform, protecting and serving the people of Eugene outside the library each day, and probably for a tiny fraction of what those brutes get paid to Taser our college kids.

Visiting the stores and galleries, restaurants and library in downtown Eugene is a joy, a privilege. Saturday Market is a thrill. Astonishing. The people here are friendly, imaginative, kind and compassionate. I love you, Eugene. Stay weird, stay beautiful! Don't believe the hype. Ban Tasers in Eugene!

*Jay D. Smith  
Eugene*

**TRIPPING TO ARLO**

Arlo Guthrie's Corvallis performance sounds worth the trip (Calendar, 4/22). However, one hopes that concert-goers do not follow your instructions to head south, or they will have a very long trip to get there!

*Carlis Nixon  
Eugene*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Been up so long it seems down to me.

**HONOR NATURE**

This oil spill could have also been a nuclear disaster, running out of fresh drinking water, using our last bit of topsoil, a global meltdown or an E. coli epidemic. We cannot build enough "safety valves" to protect the environment and our children's future from our disrespect of nature.

Indigenous cultures should be our advisors on nature, not our victims. They have always known our only path to true prosperity: to honor nature.

*Mike Meyer  
Eugene*

**HALT ORI PROJECT**

The UO intends to begin construction of a suburban-style office complex on the banks of the Willamette River in the open space adjacent to Autzen Footbridge under a plan developed in the mid-1980s. The first increment of this development, primarily for the Oregon Research Institute (ORI), will be a four-story private office building surrounded by a sprawling 200-car surface parking lot on the riverfront.

Within the past few months, major university groups have declared opposition to construction under the outdated plan. These groups include the University Senate, the ASUO Student Senate, the faculty of all of the departments in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation. The resolutions have passed enthusiastically because of the administration's historical and current disregard for the voices of the greater university community regarding this issue, and the use of development and ecological principles from the last century to construct on our riverfront today.

With this challenging situation, our new UO president has an opportunity to begin working towards a relationship of mutual respect and collaboration with the university community. President Lariviere should call a halt to riverfront development plans while the 1989 Master Plan is updated through a transparent, meaningful and participatory process to match our current values and development standards. In the interim, alternate sites are available for ORI's new building that are not on the riverfront.

Lariviere can singlehandedly turn this into a winning situation for all.

Information and a petition asking the UO president and ORI to engage the community before moving forward under a 1989 riverfront development plan can be found at [www.ConnectingEugene.org](http://www.ConnectingEugene.org)

*Paul A. Cziko  
UO Grad Student*

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**O UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

**"The University of Oregon and Oregonians work together to make dreams come true."**  
 Richard W. Lariviere, President, University of Oregon

The investiture of the University of Oregon's sixteenth president is the ideal time to celebrate the university's mission to serve the state, students, and Oregonians. The UO is a teaching and research institution where independent thinkers have been finding their place since 1876. In the spirit of partnership, Oregonians are invited to take part in the investiture of Richard W. Lariviere—the traditional celebration formally conferring the authority of the office of president. This event will feature the Oregon faculty and staff in academic regalia, music and remarks about the future of the university.

**Investiture Celebration**  
 Friday, May 21, 2010  
 2:00 P.M.  
 Memorial Quadrangle  
 North of Knight Library  
 1501 Kincaid Street

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