

ests masquerades as the cream of fastidious adherence to the public hearing law.

The legal attack on County Commissioners Sorenson and Handy had the behind-the-scenes funding of the Lane County equivalent of the Koch brothers. It has more to do with a desire to destroy opposition to lumber company interests than with curtailing the common practice of what Judge Michael Gillespie described as “continuing multiple conversations.” With more understanding of the legislative process, he would have called it consensus building.

In reality, the lawsuit brought by the lumber company surrogates has as much to do with funding part-time assistants as ending collective bargaining for public employees has to do with Wisconsin’s budget deficit. The collateral damage of destroying Sorenson and Handy, as Judge Gillespie’s decision does, is to curtail consensus building among local and county officials. That’s a steep price to pay for sour skim milk.

Arnold Buchman
Florence

FOOT POWER

EmX advocates would have us believe the economic and environmental health of Eugene depends on reducing greenhouse gases and reliance on fossil fuels by spending \$90 million on monster buses and extensive road construction for motorized vehicles. From the Slant column (2/10): “It’s not a perfect plan, but it is a solid step toward reducing traffic congestion in west Eugene and connecting West 11th to the rest of the metro area.”

The Fern Ridge Bike/Ped path already connects west Eugene with the downtown area. From my observations, at its widest, the path is 14 feet; its narrowest is only 9 feet. Walkers, runners, children, dogs and bicyclists of all types use this path. Even on winter days, there’s some congestion and dangerous situations involving bicyclists attempting to pass families out for a walk. Another parallel path needs to be developed along Amazon Creek — with bicyclists on one, and pedestrians on the other.

The future of a healthy, thriving community does not lie on its motorized roads. It dwells in the energy and freedom of movement of its people.

We could learn a few lessons from Bhutan. In a recent *Yes!* magazine article “Why the Kings of Bhutan Ride Bicycles” reads: “Bhutan has pioneered the use of Gross National Happiness (GNH) as a measure of progress, instead of the more commonly used GNP. GNH measures not only economic activity, but also cultural, ecological, and spiritual well-being.”

Many excuses are made for laziness. Here’s one: “But we’re getting \$90 million from the state and the feds, so we should just spend it on an imperfect transportation plan.”

A perfect transportation plan for Eugene can be envisioned from its “people paths.”

Robert Simms
Eugene

POSSIBILITY

Please provide attorney Susan Jane Brown of the Western Environmental Law Center with a new dictionary (News

Briefs, 2/3). Possibility does not equal likelihood. It is a possibility a satellite could fall on Eugene, but it is not a likelihood.

Harold Preece
Eugene

SEND IN THE THUGS

The coordinated attack on working people around the nation have led to some interesting revelations by Republican governors. We now know that Scott Walker of Wisconsin thought about sending thugs into the crowds at Madison to disrupt a peaceful demonstration. We know that Republican anti-middle-class governors complain that public employees donate money to unions which then usually back

Democratic candidates. But where is the complaint from every taxpayer about government leaders who issue tax breaks to business? Corporate welfare costs taxpayer money just like the cost of providing public services, or paying for wages or benefits. Corruption comes in when those same government leaders then receive direct campaign contributions and other assistance from those same companies, like the Koch brothers and Wisconsin Gov. Scott. This is simple, pure corruption, and it is happening at many levels of government. We need to kick corporate welfare queens off the public dole.

David Peden
Florence

ALL ABOUT ME

I feel sorry for Frank Skipton (letters, 2/3), and people like him who believe they are punished for being successful by having to pay an income tax. What if we got rid of both income taxes and activity taxes, and simply have an, “it’s all about me” tax?

Mary Sharon Moore
Eugene

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