

SKewed PRIORITIES

The state of Oregon, local municipalities and Lane County allocated \$2.8 million in taxpayer dollars on security for a track meet. Yet we have no long-term solution for accommodating the homeless or preventing teachers from being laid off. Why is it that public funding is available for sport events without question? Its a sad commentary on the misplaced priorities that fail to address the social needs of the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

Pat Reilly
Eugene

JOINING THE BOYCOTT

I was pleased to read EW's important cover story June 28 on drone technology promoting CodePink's Medea Benjamin and her new book, *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. Her presentation at Cozmic was excellent, and for those unable to attend it was filmed for later viewing on Community TV as was Jack Dresser's interview with her filmed earlier that day.

I also admire Benjamin and CodePink for their activism in promoting Palestinian human rights. Benjamin served on the steering committee and CodePink was a key organizer for the 2009 Gaza Freedom March where over 1,500 activists converged in Egypt and attempted to enter Gaza to bring relief supplies and protest the ravages of Israel's Operation Cast Lead assault on its one-year anniversary.

Benjamin and CodePink have also joined the boycott, divestment and sanctions

(BDS) campaign against Israel with energy and imagination. A "stolen beauty" boycott action held on the 2010 International BDS Day led by Benjamin against AHAVA cosmetic products made in the occupied West Bank using stolen Palestinian resources can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/7yp5c2a>

And for the past two years CodePink has organized conferences and demonstrations against the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) at their spring conferences in Washington, D.C.

The connection? Benjamin explained that Israel is the world's #2 producer of drones, used against the captive Palestinians of Gaza.

Mariah Leung, co-director
Al-Nakba Awareness Project
Eugene

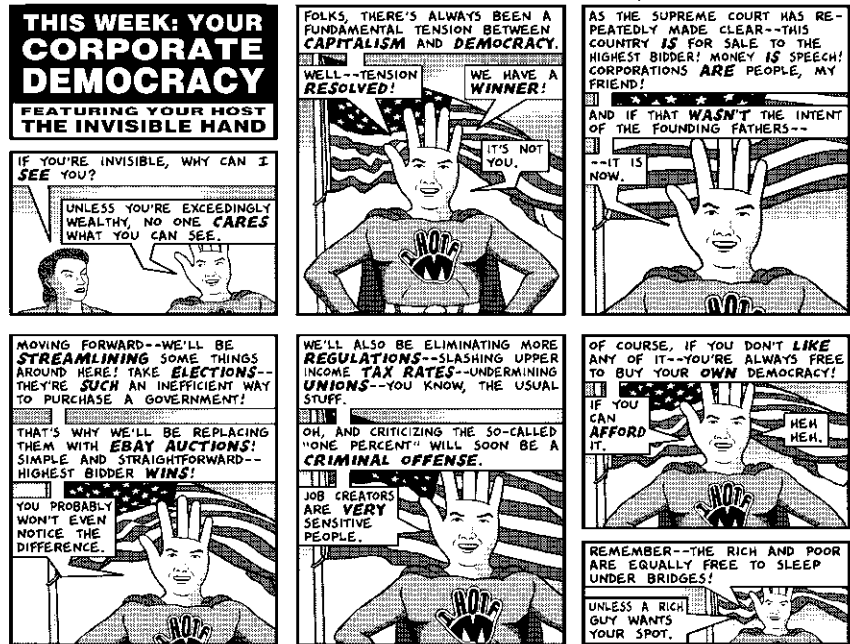
BELOVED SPORT

Last year, the Eugene Disc Golf Club, the city and community members made great progress towards installing a permanent disc golf course within the boundaries of Alton Baker Park. As the summer heat is finally upon us, I have to wonder, where is this much needed course?!

My family and I simply cannot wait for this course to arrive! We feel that a centralized disc golf park next door to the UO — which began the Northwest's first collegiate team — that is within bicycle riding distance for so many community members is perfect for green Eugene. Furthermore, a disc golf course in Alton Baker would be a wellness boon for a diverse population of

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



the community, especially college students and UO staff members.

On top of the health benefits, disc golfers will add to the positive presence of individuals in Alton Baker Park. Better yet, having a centralized course will increase the opportunities for the UO and Eugene disc golf clubs to fund raise and support our community through our beloved sport.

We sincerely hope that our city leaders recognize the great value that disc golf courses have brought to communities all across the globe. We implore our city leaders to see this project through to

completion as soon as possible. I encourage all of you to contact your city councilor and do the same!

Mat Beecher
Eugene

COAL DECEPTIONS

The rush to export more coal is based on two lies. First, the claim we have so much coal we can export it even though coal has peaked in the U.S. on an energy basis. Richard Heinberg's books *Blackout* and *The End of Growth* contain some of the details.

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