

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



on top! Please don't have them repeat their suggestion that waste or lower salaries or bigger classes will makeup for needed school funding.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

PAVEMENT SPREADS

On Feb. 25, the Oregon House voted 45-11 in favor of \$450 million toward the Columbia River Crossing, a \$4 billion widening of I-5 (up to 16 lanes on the Vancouver side). On March 4, the Oregon Senate voted 18-11 for the funding. Only two House Democrats voted "no" and one Senate Democrat voted "no." All of Lane County's state representatives and senators voted "yes" except for Republican Bruce Hanna.

Oregon plans \$20 billion on new and expanded highways even though traffic levels peaked in Oregon in 2002. See details at peaktraffic.org/oregon.html.

Lane County's Regional Transportation Plan includes \$1 billion for bigger roads. Mayor Piercy and Councilor Alan Zelenka joined conservatives to vote "yes."

Cascadia's fuel mostly comes from the Alaska Pipeline, which has declined three-quarters since its 1988 peak. Is there a "Plan B" after the pipeline closes due to low flow?

Meanwhile, Gov. John Kitzhaber and Rep. Peter DeFazio want to give public lands (managed by BLM) to timber corporations so they could be clearcut and sprayed with poison.

I hope "climate" groups will decide that politicians who promote highway expansion and massive clearcutting are not environmental champions. This might require these leaders to wean themselves off grants from Rockefeller (Exxon), Pew (Sunoco) and similar foundations. Admitting climate change is real should not be a "get out of jail free" card to exonerate one's promotion of pollution. As Ed Abbey said, "Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul."

Mark Robinowitz
SustainEugene.org

HARD BODIES

Congratulations, the fashion issue [4/25] was your best ever. The neat threads, the hard bodies (mostly); I tell you, I seriously considered canceling my online porn subscription. I'll gladly endure your weenie politics in exchange for content like this. Now, when can I expect the EW swimsuit issue?

Mike Kopf
Eugene

PAIN PILL PROBLEM

The opiate addiction problem does not just fall into the category of "these addicts"; rather, it is also an issue among people like you, who have a rightful prescription from a doctor to support a chronic disease. "These addicts" have a disease just like yours, only mentally, not physically and it takes courage, determination and strength for them to go into detox and recovery, just like the disease such as alcoholism.

There are many reasons why or how the addiction came about, be it because of the individual's genetic addiction history or of whatever the wide range of circumstances he or she may be, from social to economic to personal health issues. But whatever the circumstances are, the addiction problem is there and the individual feels pretty much helpless unless there is a support system available. So the fact is that for the people who just want to "get their fix," there are many complications and no easy solution. Only positive support is needed for them rather than negative outcries from people who may happen to have legitimate access to a prescription.

Bottom line, addiction is a disease, but for this type, the right cure is a delicate issue.

Gerrit Strand
Eugene

BERKELEY VS. EUGENE

I've been in Eugene for about seven years. This town and the people are the weirdest people in this nation, with the exception of Berkeley, Calif.! Actually, Berkeley is almost the same as far as weird people!

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