I admire and respect what the Y does for this community, but they are dead wrong in wanting to tear down our Stadium. A new Y facility and a restored Civic would complement each other. All Eugene would benefit. It is possible! As to the idea that Civic is just memories, I offer this thought. Yes, it is memories: having a beer with friends, family entertainment, watching the moon rise, high school sports, Pacific Coast League, the Emeralds and other special events.

The stadium is a symbol of Eugene's memories. Still, Civic Stadium is more: Its WPA 1938 architecture is a unique treasure, and if restored it would be an asset to this community. What memories do a Fred Meyer shopping center and parking lot conjure up? Please, Kroger, stop salivating over our town's hallowed land.

Joe R. Blakely
Eugene

PRIVACY ROUTINELY VIOLATED

The New York Times reports that the scope of the FISA court, created to monitor our government's secret snooping into domestic and overseas phone calls, email and other data, includes unspecified topic areas in addition to terrorism.

The National Security Agency (NSA) handled 18,000 requests for surveillance last year (about 50 a day); none were rejected. FISA proceedings are "almost never made public." FISA regularly considers major issues in constitutional law and establishes legal precedents with virtually no public participation, knowledge or scrutiny.

These violations of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which protects citizens' privacy, are justified on the basis of secret "special needs" exceptions.

The consideration of such exceptions normally takes place in open court with all views considered, but the FISA court is not open and public; virtually all aspects of it are secret. Judges are appointed by Chief Justice Roberts and appear not to require public appointment and confirmation. Court proceedings and the targets for surveillance are secret. FISA only hears the government's view.

The nature of the NSA data is essentially unlimited, in that while the NSA says it is aware that some data collected may not be relevant to its assignments, it also argues that the data may become relevant at some future date. We wouldn't even be aware of this spying without whistle-blowers like Edward Snowden.

NSA-like institutions and thinking are the death of the Fourth Amendment. I'll take my chances with terrorists; return my Fourth Amendment freedom to me. Close the NSA and anything like it.

Tom Giesen
Eugene

IT'S ABOUT THE MONEY

The court sanctioned gay rights. Really? Adults have the right to cohabitate however they desire. To speak for another