

Opinion

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Letters to the Editor

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Dear Editor,

This letter is concerning Jefferson High School. The "unacceptable" report card. This is Oregon Department of Education report on the lack of achievement for students who attend Jefferson. I agree that the lack of achievement is "unacceptable". The question I am asking is what are the Governor, and previous Governors, and the State of Oregon doing, for their lack of leadership for so long to allow this situation to manifest to this point of deprivation. I would also like to ask the Mayor of Portland previous and present, the City Council, Multnomah chairperson, previous superintendent of the school, School Board, as well as the Legislature, and the City of Portland. Everytime the budget was cut for schools, Jefferson and schools in the Albina area always took the budget cuts in finance, program cuts, and staff cuts. Once the foundation of a building is destroyed for so long as far as neglect it is bound to crumble. Once children have been miseducated from Kindergarten through eighth grade. It isn't fair to make Jefferson the scapegoat for all of your failures. Everytime something comes up they blame the students, parents and teachers. They always try to indicate that the community and people do not care. That's untrue. In 1977 when

the school board had proposed what was known as the Newman plan. This plan would have deported all of our eighth graders going to Jefferson, which was their high school, to send them to schools in northwest Portland. I was angry about unjust proposal. I took on the School Board and the Superintendent at a school board meeting. Through my effort, the Coalition for school integration was formed. It consisted of people from all over the Portland metro area, all races; The Black United Front was also organized with me being one of the organizers, along with Ron Herndon, pastor John Jackson, Herb Cawthorne and others. It took five years to fight to keep Jefferson in the neighborhood, get Tubman middle school, and return all of our schools to K-five. This allowed students who didn't want to be bussed to other schools to remain in their own neighborhood. We all had death threats. I had earned from Portland State University a Bachelor of Science Degree in elementary education. I was told many times I would never get a teaching job in Portland Public School. This did not bother me. This is half of my report card. I have worked in this neighborhood for over thirty years for free. I do care; greater love has no man that they would give up their livelihood for the sake of others. Over the last thirty years Portland

has received millions & millions of dollars to educate the so-called disadvantaged student. If these funds that had been appropriated for education, had been used properly, most students should be Rhodes Scholars. Sincerely, Vesia Loving
Dear Editor, I am deeply concerned by the health of our Willamette River, and state's apparent inability to effectively bring it back to life. The Willamette River Valley is home to 70% of Oregon's population, flowing through the center of our lifeline. It is a source of drinking water for many communities in Oregon and California, it provides opportunities for fishing and recreation, and is the natural habitat for many plants and wildlife. How can we allow millions of pounds of toxic chemicals such as dioxin, mercury, lead and arsenic to poison its banks and waters every year? The US Environmental Protection Agency has reported a 26-mile stretch of the Willamette just north of Portland, toxic enough to qualify as a Federal Superfund Site. Despite this Disturbing fact, not one of the 55 industries along the river has agreed to help pay for its clean up. When will these industries stop their flagrant disregard for our environment and take responsibility for their presence in our communities?

I call upon Langdon Marsh, the director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, to complete a strong proposal of action by their scheduled deadline of March 31. They must thoroughly clean up the Willamette immediately and hold the offending polluters accountable for the bill. I also insist that we immediately hold to vigorously following Governor Kitzhaber's executive order to phase out all releases of biocumulative toxins by 2020. We all deserve a healthy Willamette and a stable environment. We deserve it now. Sincerely, Ryan Murfeldt
Dear Editor, When Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of hypertext and the Worldwide Web) First envisioned the Worldwide Web in 1989, his hope was to develop a means for people to access documents and collaborate worldwide. He did not envision the web as medium unto itself. It is human nature to not consider the forward evolutionary affect that results from powerful new technology. But, as powerful new technology sweeps the planet, everything in its path is forced to evolve. New society evolves from new technology as surely as new gizmos and gadgets do. Converging media will evolve into a

whole new creature, not just a combination of old and new. Next generation media will spawn from the convergence to today's sophisticated video games and live news shows; soap operas and chat rooms; e-mail and free perfume sample. The buzz will be all about relational media; database designed infotainment and edutainment with test, college credits, cash prizes and rewards. Mostly through, news, information and entertainment will be extensible. Extensibility is perhaps the least recognized new media trends. In short, extensible media is digitally formatted media that contains actionable source data. Stock market commentaries, weather forecasts, and traffic reports (and everything else) will contain elements that can be viewed by humans and interrupted by appliances and software agents that directly respond and execute one or more actions or tasks. The potential is limitless; the ramifications are staggering. To envision the potential, consider this; the current market price of a basic home computer system with a 500MHz processor, 64 Megs of RAM, 13 gigabyte hard drive and monitor is about \$1,000. If we assume that the average computer becomes 50% more powerful each year, then, at the beginning of 2005 a \$1,000 computer system will feature a 3,800 MHz processor.

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