

## EDITORIALS &amp; OPINIONS

The Bulletin  
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERHeidi Wright  
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Publisher  
Editor  
Editorial Page EditorOSU-Cascades  
gets a deserved  
win this session

This legislative session featured two big decisions about OSU-Cascades. And it looks like the branch campus of Oregon State University won.

One decision was on a bill, House Bill 2888. The bill was the legislative equivalent of picking up an angry nest of hornets and throwing it at the campus.

The bill would have severed the connection between OSU-Cascades and OSU. OSU-Cascades would become its own entity — Central Oregon University.

Students who had paid tuition to attend a branch of OSU would find they weren't getting what they thought. Faculty and staff would suddenly be shifted to a new institution without any say in the matter. To some students, faculty and staff, that may have not made a big difference. But to others it would have. It just seemed unfair.

And then to make matters worse, the bill aimed to slash the potential of what degrees the campus could ever offer. It would be barred from offering any programs over a master's degree. A low ceiling would be set for a new university campus in one of the fastest growing regions of the state.

Why are we going on and on about a bill that died? Because this effort to put a check on the future of OSU-Cascades could very well come back.

When there is only so much

money to go around for universities and colleges, some people will try to find ways to curb OSU-Cascades. Its enrollment is growing. Other campuses in Oregon have struggled. It's new. It's where many students want to go. It further enhances the draw of Central Oregon for employers and families. It creates opportunities for students close to home in a region that was long underserved by a university. It creates jobs. We are going to face fights again, though they will likely be more subtle than the hornets of HB 2888.

In fact, for OSU-Cascades, this session seems to be turning into something of a victory. It's not finalized yet, but as Gary Warner reported in Friday's Bulletin, the campus looks set to get \$14 million for a new building. It would be for a student success center, sort of a modern version of a student union. It will be a place for tutoring, counseling, a wellness center, a place for students to gather and more. It's a necessary part of a complete campus. Students even voted to tax themselves to help pay for it. They believe in the need. They believe in the future of the campus. It's reassuring that this session the Legislature seems to, too.

Historical editorials:  
'Out for a good time'

■ *Editor's note: The following historical editorials originally appeared in what was then called The Bend Bulletin on Aug. 10, 1906.*

The two boys who were "out for a good time" and who in having it killed a harmless old tinker at Latham last Sunday, are now tasting the bitterness of their folly. The cries of the old dying man haunt them night and day, and the awful fear of the murderer clutches them with all its terror. Merely youths, they now see before them a life of forced confinement in the penitentiary. Whether the court, considering their youth and evident repentance, will impose a lenient sentence remains to be seen. It is said that dime novels exerted a pernicious influence on these boys. They were travelling over the country, away from home and parents, and were evidently infected with the insidious desire

for a lawless life. The utter foolishness of such a life is seldom seen by many youths until they have tried it and experienced its ultimate bitterness. Better to bear the restraining hand of a careful parent that to suffer the pangs of a guilty conscience and to experience the power of law.

...

Evidently Mr. J.O. Johnson intends to capture a share of that export apple trade that the Hood River people have been boasting about this season. His decision to plant 500 acres to nothing but export apples — apples of exceptional keeping qualities — means much for the future reputation for the upper Deschutes valley as a fruit country. Now let other settlers follow Mr. Johnston's example by planting only first-class commercial fruit.

Editorials reflect the views of The Bulletin's editorial board, Publisher Heidi Wright, Editor Gerry O'Brien and Editorial Page Editor Richard Coe. They are written by Richard Coe.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



"OUR APOLOGIES. WE NEVER WOULD HAVE CALLED YOU AN ESSENTIAL WORKER IF WE THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BE PAID LIKE ONE."

## Don't make Minnesota Avenue a mall

BY CHAD BUELOW

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to convert a portion of Minnesota Avenue in downtown Bend into a pedestrian-only corridor.

This proposal marks the opening of another front in the unrelenting "war on parking" being waged by our newly elected City Council. Proponents claim that this proposal covers only one block, but don't kid yourself — if this block becomes pedestrian only, it's only a matter of time until vehicles are barred from all of downtown, which would be a terrible mistake.

While there are many pressing issues facing Bend these days, the state of downtown is not one of them. Downtown is thriving. Pedestrian malls, on the other hand, have a history of failure dating back decades. Advocates of pedestrian promenades tempt us with visions of warm summer nights outside, but they conveniently ignore the reality of what downtown would look like the rest of the time.

One of downtown's strengths is that it is "activated" all week. While our beloved breweries and restaurants draw tourists and locals alike on weekends, downtown is also bustling on weekdays with residents patronizing other "daily needs" businesses: the untrendy banks, barbershops and bookstores that visitors on the Ale Trail walk right past. Most of these residents drive, so eliminating parking will make them less likely to patronize businesses downtown. Businesses will shutter and be replaced by either "for rent" signs or retailers catering to tourists.

To compound things, Bend is a city with a homelessness crisis in a state

GUEST COLUMN



Buelow

that now bars cities from preventing camping on public property. What could possibly go wrong? The answers are there for anyone willing to look.

Before relocating to Bend from California, I lived in Santa Monica and Venice Beach — both of which offer cautionary lessons. At best, a pedestrian only downtown Bend would resemble Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade: a soulless outdoor mall avoided by locals and filled with tourists stepping around (and over) street performers and panhandlers to patronize chain retailers and restaurants. The worst-case scenario is something resembling the human tragedy unfolding daily on the Venice Boardwalk — and I'd encourage anyone who thinks that couldn't happen in Bend to think about the homeless camp that was on Emerson Avenue.

So why are we even considering this? This proposal seems to be driven by a few downtown businesses that would benefit from a pedestrian promenade — primarily those expecting to be gifted private outdoor dining space on public property now used for parking, which would constitute a gross misuse of a public resource. If Bos Taurus needs more space to sell \$155 steaks, it should relocate or open a second location like any other business.

As a Democrat, I'm surprised that progressive politicians would even consider giving away a public asset to private businesses, but this isn't the

first time local elected officials have taken disappointing positions regarding parking. Our new councilors are working to deliver a massive gift to developers by waiving minimum parking requirements in new developments. The previous council allowed Old Bend residents to privatize public street parking. The current council is allowing private downtown businesses (including one of the nation's largest craft breweries) to convert public parking spaces into exclusive seating areas. The common thread seems to be that councilors won't let progressive principles interfere with their "war on parking."

It seems that our new councilors, shielded from constituents in their Zoom meeting echo chamber, have misinterpreted the "blue wave" that carried them into office as a mandate to make driving as difficult as possible. They are being eagerly abetted by an unelected city parking services manager who opposes parking, as evidenced by his derisive characterization of those who value parking as being stuck in driving culture (as if any other culture were available to the majority of Bend residents).

Perhaps they need to be reminded that while Bend voters are anti-Donald Trump, we also overwhelmingly approved the transportation bond last year — which suggests that Bend residents have no problem with the "driving culture" that rookie councilors and unelected bureaucrats are working to eliminate.

The Minnesota Avenue proposal is a flawed solution to a nonexistent problem that will ruin our gem of a downtown. Bend residents should oppose it.

■ Chad Buelow lives in Bend.

## Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

## Guest columns

Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words and must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

## How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.

Email: [letters@bendbulletin.com](mailto:letters@bendbulletin.com)

Write: My Nickel's Worth/Guest Column  
P.O. Box 6020  
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## Want kids to learn math? Be honest that it's hard and takes time

BY JORDAN ELLENBERG

Special to The Washington Post

A school year unlike any other is coming to a close, but one thing remains the same: We're still tussling, in the same old ways, over how math should be taught. More data science, less stuffy trigonometry? Students placed in separate classrooms by test scores or doing differentiated work in the same classroom? These questions are vexed, but I've got one suggestion for how we can improve. We can tell students that math is very, very hard.

It's the truth. The techniques of algebra, geometry and calculus were hard to create, and they're hard to learn. But saying so forthrightly doesn't come naturally to a lot of teachers — or to commenters on education. "Math Is Not Hard: A Simple Method That Is Changing The World," reads a headline in HuffPost, extolling an approach that aims to

help ease kids into the subject. I embraced rhetoric like this when I was an apprentice college instructor. I was constantly telling students, at the outset of a computation, "Now this is pretty simple" — encouraging them, or so I thought. My mentor, the master teacher Robin Gottlieb, now a professor at Harvard, set me straight. When we say a lesson is "easy" or "simple," and it manifestly isn't, we are telling students that the difficulty isn't with the mathematics, it's with them. And they will believe us. They won't think, "I've been lied to," they'll think, "I'm dumb and I should quit."

This applies to parents, too. I've been teaching math for two decades, and I still find myself telling my kids that a math concept they're struggling with is "not that hard." That's not encouragement — that's evidence of my frustration with watching them struggle, and it's not part of teaching.

One big problem is that math

teachers mastered the concepts so long ago, we've forgotten their difficulty.

A fellow mathematician once told me that high school calculus was as easy as following a recipe. And that's exactly right, in one sense: Following a recipe is easy once you know how to cook. But recipes require tacit knowledge and substantial experience that novices just don't have. How much salt is a dash? What's a rolling boil? You learn to cook by cooking, in the presence of someone who knows how, and at first you flail; you make plenty of mistakes; you get results that are right in some ways but very wrong in others; and the outcome of all that work is that you become another person who thinks cooking is easy.

This isn't just true of calculus, which most nonmathematicians accept is supposed to be hard. It goes for supposedly easier things, too, like fractions, a third-grade Common

Core standard. When we first present fractions to children, we're asking them to make a huge conceptual leap. For their whole life until that moment, the definition of a number was something that answers the question "how many?" A fraction is a totally different thing, not so much a number as an amount. And yet you are supposed to be able to add and subtract them, just as you can "regular numbers."

The popular economics blogger Noah Smith, a fervent advocate of math education, recently tweeted, "We don't really start teaching math til junior high." Not true! Even the concept of expressing a number as a string of digits is a deep, hard-won idea that takes time to grasp, a concept we shouldn't treat as trivial just because it's old hat in MMXXI.

The idea that math is supposed to be easy gets in the way of the most effective learning tool students have:

asking questions. If math is easy, you should just get it. And so students are afraid to ask questions in class, because they're afraid of looking stupid. The situation is even worse for students who by reason of gender or race or accent or household income have a justifiable fear that their classmates — or worse, their teacher — will jump to precisely that conclusion. If we were honest about how difficult and deep mathematics is — at every level — this would be less of a problem; we could move toward a classroom where asking a question meant not "looking stupid" but "looking like someone who came here to learn something."

I get it: "Math is hard" can be discouraging. But "Math is easy" is just false, which is even worse. We can be truthful without being demoralizing. We can tell our students: Math is hard — and you can do it.

■ Jordan Ellenberg is a math professor at the University of Wisconsin.