



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't panic

This is a moment of reckoning in Eugene. We must move beyond empty slogans and gestures and towards lifting up, resourcing and supporting demands from Black-led organizations calling for defunding the police, investing in people of color, community health, education and housing.

Only then can we transform safety and provide justice for ALL communities.

The City Council just boosted money for cops and military equipment with last year's payroll tax. Bad timing on its part, but with new blood on the council soon, it's not too late to redirect a larger share of that tax money away from the militarism in our town.

It's time to find a new approach to policing and foreign policy that doesn't lead with violence. It's time to build community-based alternatives, prioritize peacebuilding and diplomacy and build a society that meets all human needs. Ending the war on Black Americans and other people of color includes defunding and re-allocating the work of the police. This is not an all-or-nothing prospect, just re-allocation of priorities. Don't panic.

This work to dismantle the violence-first institution of policing is intimately tied with dismantling violence-first institutions of militarism as well — to build a world of justice and safety, for everyone.

**Robin Bloomgarden, Eugene**

### What would failure look like?

Let me try to understand what Vice President Mike Pence — the individual our president placed in charge of the nation's COVID-19 pandemic response — is calling "success."

Our situation is seeing individual states vying for PPE and establishing their own safety measures due to no clear, consistent recommendations at the federal level. (So much for being "United States"). Due to the actions of the third of the population who don't agree with social distancing or wearing masks, America is now experiencing a resurgence of outbreaks that no other country has.

If this is "success," what does failure look like?

**Terry Moore, North Bend**

### Making the correct call

When I got a phone call a few weeks ago that my 12-year-old son had been in a bike accident, I had no idea that his neck injury had caused air to escape in his chest and was threatening his ability to breathe.

Had I been the first person to get that call, my son might not be alive today.

Instead his twin brother and friend made the call to dial 911 first — before their parents. His twin brother insisted that if there was any trouble breathing, paramedics needed to be the first to respond.

These boys made the correct call. Even when I arrived, I assumed the bike accident just knocked the wind out of my son. It took a helicopter flight to