

# Voice of the People

## Monona Terrace not best plan for isthmus

Dear Editor: Madison voters beware! The proposed Monona Terrace convention center would become yet another arena for the movers and shakers of this community to further manipulate and control Madison's destiny for personal gain.

These are the very same people who for years helped shape the sprawling growth on Madison's far west side and, more recently, on the far east side. All this rampant growth on the periphery of the city threatens the demise of our central city. Now they say this proposed convention center will be the key to the revitalization of Madison's isthmus. I think not.

We, the voters and taxpayers of Madison, cannot afford to continue this senseless piecemeal planning process. With all this peripheral growth, with all this increase in tax base, why is Madison now unable to maintain

quality city services for our residents and visitors for years to come, we need to develop a plan with broad-based community input, unbiased presentation and analysis of data and concerns, and a strong commitment to protect and improve both our environment and the socio-economic framework of our city. This has not been done yet.

It would be sad to end up with a crumbling, unused boondoggle on the lake, despised by those who must continue to pay dearly for its perpetual maintenance and operation.

The residents of Madison and Dane County deserve a more comprehensive, well thought out, long-term plan for revitalizing the isthmus of Madison, heart of our city, our county, our state.

Please vote no on the convention center referendum on Nov. 3.

**Ron Shatvet**  
Madison

Why, with all this economic growth, do the rich get richer and the poor get poorer in this city? Jobs are filling faster than we can build them. Ghettos are growing as fast as trendy, upscale subdivisions. We've got problems in this city, and a convention center is not going to solve any of them.

Monona Terrace, if built, will leave Madison financially strapped for years to come. Be forewarned, the Monona Terrace EIS statement lacks a thorough and impartial analysis of the proposed project, the potential impacts, and possible mitigation. We will destroy an urban shoreline park area having potential beyond the short-sighted vision before us now.

If we truly want to build a structure of lasting beauty and usefulness, admired by all area

## Monona Terrace is our gift to us

Dear Editor: I roller blade down the Law Park bike path at least twice a week. I love the smooth and level surface, but I am not a bit impressed by the shoreline. I looked closely at it again yesterday. It is a pile of big rocks all dropped in a line — a boring, ugly boulder barrier. For an average cost of \$2 a month we

could "intrude on nature" again and this time leave a record we could be proud of.

The human animal has always messed around with its habitat. We dig, we chop, we bend and we build. Industriousness, creativity, and vision gets us little humans up in the morning, makes us buzz around all day, and sometimes brings forth beautiful gifts.

The Monona Terrace is one of these gifts. It is a gift to us, the world, and the future. And it is a

gift from us. It is not Frank's building. It is a building chosen by us, built by us, and bought by our tax dollars — it is ours.

In voting yes, we can create a focus that will inspire us to see the awesome beauty, harmony and creativity that we can bring forth together. It is a rare opportunity where \$2 a month can purchase so much for so many. Vote yes.

**Thomas R. Christensen**  
Madison

## Monona Terrace center would keep on costing

Dear Editor: If you don't have a solution, you are part of the problem. The "It's Wright for Madison" clique should catch up a couple of thousand dollars and then the great convention center could be built at no cost to the rest of us, who are already struggling to maintain the government in the style to which it has become accustomed. Then for the next 40 or 50 years they can kick in a like sum to fix the leaky roof, replant the garden park, and fill in the holes on the parking ramps.

By their own figures, it is only to cost the citizens a mere \$67 million to build. They also estimate that the income will require the taxpayers to meet the deficit at only \$650,000 per year. It will provide income and jobs for the downtown area. Yeah! Pigs fly, too.

The first convention that uses the place will send 300 attendees, their estimate, out into the downtown area to wine, dine and

shop. You can bet when the next convention slips into town, probably six months later, the first 300 conventioners will still be wandering around the downtown area looking for a parking place. More than half of them will be beyond the night life in the one-way streets we are blessed with. A few may have found a cart to get a snack, but those looking for real food will have found that the local eateries have all moved to the edge of town.

Come on, get real! Have you hopelessly lost among the downtown area? For that matter, have you really tried to do any serious shopping among the pushcarts and small stores that are left?

The aesthetics of the design and its location do not worry me. The environmental impact will not be as bad as some of the opponents have feared. What really bothers me is the impact on the pushcarts and small stores that are left.

We have the most extensive selection in town, shop early for the best selection.

**Glenn Lies**  
Madison

building with a roof that leaks. Nor can we afford to pour money into still another bottomless pit.

**Glenn Lies**  
Madison

## Vote yes to put \$31 to good use

Dear Editor: I understand that the proposed Monona Terrace convention center will add about \$31 to my property tax bill. Let's see, what could I do with \$31 a year? I could take my family to one movie (with popcorn, my husband and I could have one moderate-priced dinner (without wine); I could buy myself a new sweater (on sale).


Or I could help support a magnificent lakeside complex that will add new jobs to the community, bring in revenue to help regenerate our downtown, provide a stunning new space to have meetings, weddings, parties

or simply to sit and look at Lake Monona.

Which would I rather spend my money on? That's an easy choice. Vote yes for the Monona Terrace convention center.

**Judith Garcia**  
Madison

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## Bush tax ploy may backfire

Dear Editor: President Bush says if Clinton is elected president, our taxes will go up. There are millions of people who fervently hope so.

Those people whose jobs disappeared overseas would be glad to again have jobs so they could pay taxes.

**Eugene Schmall**  
Stoughton

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Come show your support for Ross Perot so we can elect him our next President. Listen to representatives of Wisconsin's senior citizens, veterans, students, labor and business leaders. Join our many volunteers at 8401 Greenway Blvd. (Greenway Blvd. exit - Hwy. 12), immediately west of the Holiday Inn/Convention Center.

Learn more why believe he will win Wisconsin and the Country! Call 233-4033 for more information.

**VOTE PEROT ON NOVEMBER 3!**  
Paid for by Post '92 Dane County Volunteers.

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**Mon., Nov. 2, 6pm-8pm**  
Award-Winning author/artist  
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**The Great Halloween Costume Parade**

Put on your costume and scare up some fun at the Great Halloween Costume Parade sponsored by The Capital Times.

It's all part of this year's Halloween at the Zoo celebration with parade festivities beginning at 2 pm Saturday, Oct. 31, at the entrance to the Henry Vilas Children's Zoo, continuing on a route past all your favorite zoo friends, and ending with candy treats for all in costumes.

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