

DEDUCTION, from page 5

economist of just about any stripe will tell you that – unless they are getting paid by the Realtors. It needs to be reformed. It's a tax subsidy that is disproportionately, overwhelmingly flowing to those at the top of the income ladder."

Keny-Guyer said that equalizing the playing field for homeownership is important as a means of building family and community assets, and as a primary strategy for helping people rise above poverty. Simply raising the minimum wage isn't improving people's finances if the wealth is simply handed over to landlords – the people who own the asset," she said.

"I can't even think of another policy that is as responsible as the mortgage interest deduction and other homeowner tax benefits for increasing the economic disparity that we have in our country right now – along class lines and along racial lines," Keny-Guyer said. "Because people of color were locked out – legally and policy-wise – of homeownership for so many decades."

While the Oregon Realtors Association did not respond to requests for comments for this article, it has been using its muscle to put Measure 104 on the November ballot. Measure 104 would amend the state Constitution to require a three-fifths supermajority vote to increase revenue through changes in tax exemptions, credits or deductions.

Currently, for example, a bill to change or reduce tax breaks to a corporation can be approved with a simple majority. This amendment would require a three-fifths supermajority in each legislative chamber, which means 12 people in the House and six in the Senate could block changes to existing deductions, including the mortgage interest deduction.

Ordóñez called the measure undemocratic and against the interest of the vast majority of Oregonians.

"Measure 104 should be called the Protection Act for Corporate Tax Subsidies and Loopholes, because that's what it really is," he said. "It allows special interests to protect the tax subsidies they've been getting, such as the mortgage interest deduction. It's a completely undemocratic policy. It allows a minority of lawmakers to block reforms that are needed. It's a situation where you have the tyranny of the minority. And the Realtors and those funding Measure 104 want to keep it that way."

Measure 104 goes before voters in the general election on Nov. 6. The Oregon Legislature begins its 2019 session on Jan. 22.

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– OREGON REP. ALISSA KENY-GUYER

**Between Worlds**

By Lazola Pambo

Aren't we so lucky to live again,
last night I died in my sleep,
and they murdered you on the race track,
I lay in my coffin,
six feet underground, with a praying mantis pose,
they burnt your body and turned your ashes,
into garden fertilizer,
It is the 20th
Century now,
and you live to tell the tale,
painting the city red with great astonishment,
I could have sworn,
you were a Goth,
Just look at the two of us,
the same inglorious bastards of yesteryear,
none of us will admit,
all this lunacy in the world confuses us,
people head bopping in the streets,
white drums in their ears,
you imagined you knew,
but history is far greater,
Between these two worlds,
of Facebook and Twitter,
the next invention shall be more appalling,
At least death,
will not have power over us

Muddy Waters

By Rebekah La Bar

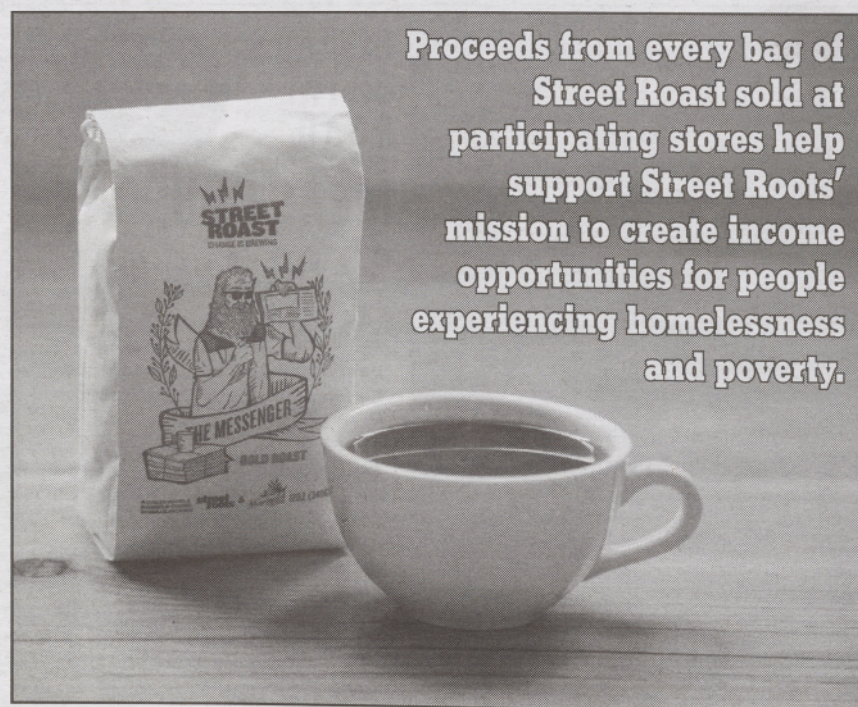
Powerful Rio Grande
shrunk to dried-up puddles of muck
in the hot Albuquerque sun
longing for a thunderstorm
of drama and flash floods
to the arroyos of my
desert interior
Sundance water fasts, four days
parched body and spirit
craving the sweet taste
of watermelon
and the beautiful blues and purples
pinks of the Sandias,
watermelon mountains.



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