

# SLANT

• The closing of the Sony plant in Springfield, laying off 277 workers plus associated jobs, once again illustrates the dangers of having too many eggs in too few baskets. Previously we've lost high-tech industries HMT and Rosen Products, and Hynix's future is anyone's guess. Jack Roberts of the Lane Metro Partnership wrote in the local daily Sunday that it's good to offer tax breaks to these big companies even if they don't stick around. He cites local jobs created and infrastructure built, but he doesn't mention the hundreds of financially devastated families or the hidden costs of public services associated with sprawling industries on the outskirts. If such growth is economically beneficial to communities, why do property taxes keep going up? And how do we put a price tag on the environmental damage of building and operating a 365,000 sq. ft. industrial factory for eight years? What is the cost of having huge single-purpose plants stand vacant for perhaps decades? Sony was a decent employer who put a lot of groceries on a lot of tables, but we can do better by encouraging cleaner, smaller-scale, more sustainable enterprises under local ownership and control.



• Americans in every town across the nation are celebrating our victory in Iraq, but U.S. citizens living in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and even Europe have learned to say "I am Canadian" in several languages. Our foreign policy is a disaster, relying on military solutions to "problem" countries. We destroy what little infrastructure they have, leaving them in chaos and draining resources and attention from Africa and other parts of the world where millions are starving. Meanwhile, looting in Iraq is subsiding, but looting at home continues unabated as the White House encourages corporate ransacking of our federal budget and natural resources.

• We hear the Village School plans to add an eighth grade next year and offer a full-fledged middle school program, The Village Middle School, which will be a school within a school separate from the K-5 program. Co-founder Matthew Bigongiari and teacher Andy Traisman say the new school will have aspects "unique to any Eugene-Springfield public middle school (or private for that matter)." Stay tuned.

• No one's going on the record yet, but at press time we hear that White Bird Medical Clinic and some other non-profits working with the disenfranchised in Eugene are facing huge funding cutbacks and are likely to slash programs or even close their doors. More fallout from the failure of Measure 28. Calcutta here we come.

• County Commissioner Tom Linger was supposed to resign in August to take a full-time post at the UO Law School, but we hear it's possible he will be able to stay on at the county for the rest of the year. We hope so. He's an excellent addition to the commission.

• A man who should know speculated to a Eugene audience last week on the Deep Throat identity game that continues to fascinate us. Stanley Kutler, lawyer and historian who played a key role in winning the release of the Nixon tapes and has written a book about it, told a big crowd in the UO Law School that there is no Deep Throat. "No one person could have known all those things," he says. Kutler has moved on to today's presidential secrecy fight. He's after the Reagan records that involve George Bush. Not surprising that George W. is blocking their release.

*SLANT includes short opinion pieces and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519.*

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