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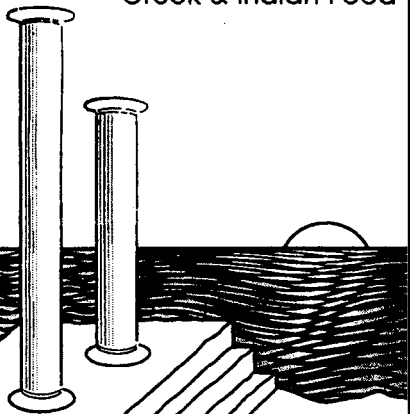
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

format that is unreadable), comic strips, crossword, movie clips, etc., due to the tiny print to call *EW* (484-0519) to let your voice be heard.

I don't understand why *EW* is not interested in making their paper readable — what other point is there in a newspaper if people can't read it?

David Gibbs
Eugene

WHERE ARE UNIONS?

In his "Post-PERS" column (5/15), Tony Corcoran tells us its "time to move on." I am sure Tony would like to leave this behind but for many of us directly affected by this travesty it's much harder. How can I move on Tony, when my monthly pension check was just cut by 28 percent for the rest of my life?

How can we move on when one of the best pension systems in the country was just devastated by our friends in Salem? It's hard to move on when you, a longtime friend of the working people, side with Ted "Opportunist" Kulongoski. Would you have taken a lead on this for Kevin Mannix if he would have won last November, or would you have fought back like you always did for us?

It's ironic that the week after our pensions were slashed, over one million public employees in France walked off their jobs to protest their "pension reform." French unions called for a general strike while Oregon teachers, firemen, policemen, etc., quietly acquiesced and others lined up to retire before "reforms" went into effect. Where are our unions? Where are our labor leaders leading a fight-back movement? I guess they are all up in Salem making deals, hoping for some judge to overturn this mess.

And by the way, Tony, good luck in getting the Republicans in Salem to return a favor and support a real tax reform. If you believe that, you probably also believe in leprechauns.

Pete Mandrapa
Eugene

CASINO BENEFITS

It's interesting that at a time when Oregon is in a financial crisis that some Oregonians do not want to see more economic development. The casino proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw will bring jobs and attract more tourism to Lane County and the Florence coast area. And, like all tribes in Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw will form a compact with the governor to give the state of Oregon a good percentage of the profits, as

much as 10 percent or more of the gross earnings from the casino to education and roads.

To me it only seems sensible to allow this tribe to develop the casino to help the area recover from deficits in education and road repair monies and create jobs and increase tourism dollars to our county.

Like many other people, I was against other casinos being built in Oregon because I thought there would be an impact on the moral fiber of the local people. However the casino at Grand Ronde, Spirit Mountain, annually gives away community development grants, funds local schools in a rural, depressed region and helps fix the rural highways from the coast to the valley. While a casino is not a cure-all, the increased development does help the area around Grand Ronde. I can see this happening for Lane County, as well.

David Lewis
Eugene



GREEDY INVESTORS

Twice in Alan Pittman's May 22 article, "Ode to Node," real estate investors whined that democratically determined changes in land use regulations

unfairly take away their property rights. This illogic is worthy of inclusion in Tom Tomorrow's (5/22) "The Republican Matrix" cartoon "where logic holds no sway ... where up is down and black is white."

I am sick of hearing greedy real estate investors demand to be compensated for land use changes that lower the value of their property. Investors take this risk because they often make huge profits by getting property rezoned for higher density development. Compensation for losses would only be fair if investors were also willing to pay taxpayers for land use changes that increase property values.

The state Legislature almost passed a special bill, which was promoted by the opinionated Lars Larson radio show, to permit a 90-year-old woman to profit from developing her land. I am sorry that her long-term investment turned out poorly, but I don't see the state Legislature offering to bail out other types of losing investments made by widows and orphans.

Hopefully, the nodal development concept will prove more durable than the 1970s downtown mall idea.

Thomas Kraemer
Corvallis

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