

her convictions. Does she have a philosophy or core values that drive her decision making? If so, those values have been missing in action; her flip flop on the Martin Luther King street renaming is just the latest example of her floating adrift in the winds of public opinion polls.

But then Nathanson's political ambition (mayor, Legislature) may be seducing her to forego the tough path of working in the greater public interest. If one can get elected with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and their campaign war chest (*R-G*, 8/24), why bother with the concerns and values of taxpaying residents and the livability of existing neighborhoods?

This is sad; Councilor Nathanson is a good person who has lost her bearings in the ardor to curry favor with the Gang of 9 and well-heeled special interests. Our community needs principled and visionary leadership to galvanize all interests through the challenges ahead.

Rob Handy
Eugene

FORCED DRUGGING

EW has not, as far as I have seen, covered the hunger strike going on in Pasadena by psychiatric survivors who are attempting to draw attention to psychiatry's claim without scientific evidence or definitive medical

tests that mental illnesses are biologically based. This claim by psychiatry and NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) has led to psychiatric drugging, sometimes by force, as the primary and sometimes only treatment option given to those experiencing behavioral or emotional problems. Psychiatric drugs are powerful entities that have extreme, often debilitating, sometimes fatal side effects. They are also very expensive. The industry makes a lot of money drugging people.

One of the hunger strikers is from Eugene and the sponsoring group, Support Coalition International (www.mindfreedom.org) is based in Eugene.

The only reason I can see for this reporting oversight is that *EW* is a liberal paper and the current state psyche system is supported by liberals as humanitarian. The psychiatric take-your-pills-and-shut-up system is abusive, coercive, expensive and ineffective.

Pharmaceuticals and psychiatrists reap profits while patients sacrifice their lives and futures. Blind do-gooder syndrome is no excuse for not demanding change.

Jody A. Harmon
Corvallis

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're happy to see SCI and David Oaks finally getting some mainstream attention. We did write about his fast briefly in our 8/7 issue and again 9/4 after this letter was submitted.

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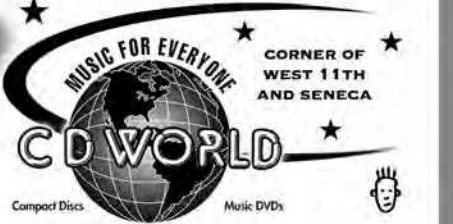
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