

bad thing to exhibit lest someone somewhere become aroused. It is a gloomy day when feminism resembles Puritanism. Would the world be a better place if the Comstocks banned lasciviousness? No. Naked breasts, genitals, buttocks, etc. are not offensive. Perceptions are. Would *EW* be better served by presenting women in *chadors*, so no part of their anatomy could be exploited?

Danette Lamson-Hall
Eugene

CORCORAN'S COURAGE

Politicians may have perks in recognition and prestige but they sacrifice time with family and career and develop thick skins from the constant barrage of criticism by opponents, and sometimes friends. All too often people complain about one thing a legislator does that affects them personally and forget to view the whole picture and acknowledge the hard work and battles that didn't make the headlines. This is especially true for a minority legislator when the opposing party sets the agenda.

Sen. Tony Corcoran should be lauded for all that he has accomplished over many years fighting for working Oregonians. Corcoran has led the resistance to the assault on workers' rights and has worked hard and effectively to ensure adequate funding for our schools and social safety net. He has not always been on the winning side, but his dogged determination and negotiating skills have left their mark.

The PERS problems came up because the PERS board made over-generous contributions to the fixed accounts during the stock market boom on the '90s and neo-conservatives on talk radio started hammering away at the problem and calling for radical solutions. Corcoran had the courage to address an issue he knew might alienate his allies and tried to get the most just settlement that he could achieve.

If progressives want to set the agenda, they will have to elect strong legislators and develop a coherent message. Bickering only strengthens the opposition.

Frank & Mary Lou Vignola
Eugene

PARK AMENITIES

City monies are held hostage by a small minority. The part-time athlete's need for wide-open schedules is currently dictating where your park bond money is going. Never mind that the city has spent money on several surveys that show that the community as a

whole wants to see more natural habitat and beautification in their parks. Never mind that the majority of people exercise through walking and biking. Never mind that even the organized sport focus group stated that baseball and softball are declining in interest, the city staff want to build more baseball fields in Amazon Park.

This park is host to every amenity listed in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space brochure. No other park can boast that. But because housing starts continue in the south end of town, adding SDC money to the city park coffers, current parks like Amazon must continue to absorb more and more activities in order to utilize the SDC and bond funds.

So, as our neighborhoods are encouraged to become more dense, the parks will mirror that same development until the natural element of our central park is diminished.

The city cannot meet every sports demand. This is the time for neighbors of Amazon Park and citizens citywide who care about clean water and healthy places to speak up and save Amazon Park.

Paul Cauthorn
Eugene

RETURN TO SENDER

I just received a petition in the mail to rescind the small progressive tax legislators directed to schools and the blind and disabled. Citizens in Eugene and Springfield usually recognize immoral attempts by a few wealthy individuals to avoid paying their fair share of taxes and I urge them to not sign on to these petitions.

A progressive tax is the fairest, allowing citizens to pay according to their ability to pay. Our tax system needs reform as previous tax initiatives have shifted the tax burden to those with low and middle incomes. The legislators' attempt to reform this and have a fairer tax is now challenged with this petition.

I want my grandchildren to have the same opportunity for a high standard public education that I received and I want my blind and disabled friends to know that if they need public assistance it will be there! My petition will be marked "refuse to participate" and returned to sender.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

WHY THE OFFENSE

I want to acknowledge why I think many readers of *EW* have become offended by the sexually explicit advertising. For one, *EW* has become something of a treasure to the

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