

To that remarkable person who has invested her or his time, money and energy to awaken our consciousness and keep us awake, by your actions I thank you. You bring heart to our community. Blessings, you are a great and noble spirit!

Celia Maximin
Eugene

REAR END VIEW

I was walking down the sidewalk the other day, when an SUV burns a U-ey in the middle of the street to grab a parking spot on the opposite side of the street. Since the SUV's turning radius was too wide to complete the U-turn, the driver simply drove up onto the sidewalk, causing me and the other pedestrians to freeze and look for an exit strategy. The driver then backed off the sidewalk into the street and completed the parking maneuver.

What an asshole, I thought. Contemptuous of the rules of the road, only thinking of number one, ignoring the welfare of others. Sure enough, when I could see the SUV's rear end, there it was: Bush/Cheney '04.

Doug Hintz
Eugene

A SHAMEFUL TALE

Recently the multimillion dollar Giustina land and Timber Company asked to have their timberland removed from the newly formed Lane Library District (Creswell). Although the estimated tax on their revenue producing timber land was only \$500, their position was that they already paid taxes to cover schools and that they had to draw the line somewhere since there were no dwellings on their lands containing people who might benefit. The appeal was granted by the Lane County Boundary Commission.

In essence, the commission logic appeared to be that granting the request was required since the withdrawal of the lands did not appear to materially financially jeopardize the Library District at this immediate point in time. The issue of whether this action might in the future jeopardize the district was swept under the carpet with statements implying that the commission did not have a responsibility to

attempt to anticipate future events and that other small landowners probably wouldn't put up much of a fight for withdrawal as Giustina did. Unfortunately both Giustina and the Boundary Commission failed to appreciate that property taxes of this type are not generally treated as use taxes and that the educational services that are funded indirectly benefit the whole community.

More importantly, the position taken was directly contrary to a founding democratic principal of this country that one has a civic responsibility to support services that benefit the community at large. In this case the creation of the Library District was decided by public vote. Behavior such as this impoverishes small communities such as Creswell where major proportions of their tax base can be locked up in non socially contributing but private money producing timber lands. There is also a clear fairness issue in that by Giustina's and the Commission's logic the local merchant or gas station owner should also be exempted from tax since there are no library users living in their places of business. In fact the illiterate should be excluded since they can't read!

Thankfully, neither Weyerhaeuser nor Rosboro have yet seen fit to engage in such economic vandalism against the Library District by using this dodge. Imagine where we would be as a country and community if all business argued that their business property should not be subject to taxes that provide for the health and welfare of their working populace.

Robert A. Olsen
Eugene

THE KING IS DEAD

To prime my pump, I have culled relevant articles from *The New York Nation* and *The New York Times* and also purchased and scan-read in a relevant issue of the ambiguously named journal *Race Traitor* to the end of addressing an issue that is for the most part a back-burner one now for the media: the still vexed plight/situation of the Palestinians.

Of course it was old warrior Yasir Arafat's death last November, obliging an election



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