

## RECALLING WILD OATS

Let us look at the failure of Wild Oats, another big box food store that tried to establish itself in Eugene, before we repeat that mistake. Hailed as an excellent natural foods store, Wild Oats bought out the locally owned, highly successful Oasis Market, which had two excellent stores. Spokespeople for Wild Oats promised to change neither its character nor its products.

They promised to buy locally grown produce and to retain Oasis employees. Within weeks of taking control, prices rose sharply, and several long standing employees either quit or were dismissed; local produce was stocked sparingly. Wild Oats failed to win the hearts, minds and pocketbooks of the people of Eugene. Eight years later, they were forced to close.

Whole Foods, too, will fail. Eugene already has a host of locally owned and operated natural foods stores, plus a locally based chain of supermarkets that provide both conventional and organic products. Why would people support a large corporation that sends its profits to its shareholders, instead of remaining loyal to their locally owned markets? Why would people travel downtown to pay to park in a large parking structure, when they can park for free at any of those local stores?

Within time, the 53,000 sq. ft. building will be empty, and the parking structure, at best, half full, from time to time. Enhancing the coffers of this large corporation at the expense of our local economy will not benefit our community.

*Kathleen Epstein  
Eugene*



## SEE THE ELEPHANT

Many say we need a neighborhood grocery for the downtown. Not many disagree. Many say that we need another parking garage in the downtown. Many say we don't. Local grocery owners say a proposed new store will hurt their business and that the city is facilitating that harm by subsidizing a parking garage. Some downtown businesspeople say competition is the American Way and please don't confuse a needed parking garage with a subsidy.

There's an elephant loose in this conversation.

Area leaders have long been focused on keeping traffic congestion and air pollution in check by shortening auto trips and promoting walking and biking. Think urban village business nodes selling groceries and other daily needs.

Watch out! We're about to be crushed by something which isn't really a neighborhood grocery after all. Whole Foods is planning to build a 52,000 sq. ft store with abundant parking for their exclusive use, located in a high traffic area that has a 200,000 population

within a 20 minute drive. (All requirements as listed on their website.) The plan is to have thousands drive there daily from Eugene/Springfield and beyond.

Whole Foods is free to build whatever size store they want (including one appropriate to the neighborhood). But how can it make sense for the city of Eugene to balance on one leg to the tune of an \$8 million dollar parking garage if the whole concept flies in the face of years of transportation, environmental and neighborhood planning? Where's the sustainability in that?

*Paul C. Moore  
Eugene*

## MISOGYNISTIC LAW

Whether abortions are legal or not, women will continue to seek and obtain them. Their being legal would mean simply they were performed by medically competent persons who would insure the safety and health of the women.

In pre-Roe v. Wade Chicago, where I lived at the time, 4,000 women a year were admitted to Cook County hospital for the treatment of bungled or inept self-administered abortions.

Motherhood is such a serious, responsible demand that calls for a life-long commitment to unselfishness, sacrifice, and mature unconditional love that no women should ever be

forced by a cruel, misogynistic law to bear a child involuntarily.

The new South Dakota law that only permits abortion to save the life of a woman epitomizes petty thinking that is ignorant of a woman's ability to judge for herself whether she is mature enough, well enough, strong enough, stable enough or too poor, overburdened or unsupported enough to be a mother.

Voters need to chary about candidates or political parties who are likely to declare/wage war on women by denying them the protection Roe v. Wade provides [for] safe, legal abortions.

*Edgar Peara  
Eugene*



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