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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

lane when an automobile driver began honking at us and shouting; he accelerated and shot by within inches of our left shoulders. A pity the police did not witness it, but they cannot be everywhere. I remain thankful for what appeared to be a normal police patrol presence at the time of Critical Mass.

*Ed Gunderson
Creswell*

SEEKING TRUTHINESS

I am a big fan of Stephen Colbert, who coined the term "truthiness." Wikipedia defines truthiness as "the quality by which a person claims to know something from the gut without regard to evidence, intellectual examination, or actual facts" Colbert comically exhorts, "Don't think about it. Just feel the truth!" I did laugh when I read the truthy article about Eugene's City Hall, "Doomed to Demo." But the following week when working with the media to advertise an upcoming community forum, a few reporters used the many inaccuracies found in that article in their interview questions, and it no longer seemed funny. Colbert's point is that "truthiness" is destructive in political dialogue. "Factfulness" would be much more beneficial to the community.

For example, the article inaccurately claimed a \$200 million cost for the project. The project cost models ranged from \$109 million to \$135 million for various options to fully consolidate City Hall and accommodate growth to at least the year 2030.

The article said the design team recommended almost quadrupling the size of the current building. The difference between the amount of space currently occupied by city offices throughout the downtown and the amount recommended for a new building is 22 percent, an increase to address a lack of meeting space. The article tapped the anti-worker vein with false claims of plans for larger offices when many staff, perhaps most, would receive smaller but more open and efficient workspaces.

Please go to www.eugene-cityhall.com to read the architectural studies and reports on citizen input on master planning issues.

Ellen Teninty

City Hall Master Planning Design Team

EDITOR'S NOTE: Looks like we added up the cost numbers wrong (see correction in news briefs) but we won't be surprised if the final cost years from now doesn't hit \$200 million.

WALKER ON EDUCATION

Oregonians can depend on Democrat Vicki Walker's experience and commitment to education. Sen. Walker was appointed as a commissioner to the national Education Commission of the States — the only major education group that does not exclusively serve special-interest groups. As a legislator, she has worked tirelessly to secure funding for education, effectively preserving the full school year for Oregon students and preventing teacher layoffs.

Oregon faces some challenges in financing the future of education, but Walker has proven that she knows how to

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