

critical part of the whole kaleidoscope of people that make up our community.

As adult citizens and human beings, I believe it's our duty to set a positive example for our youth. Let's take responsibility for ourselves and for them. Let's give kids a chance to interact, grow and contribute to our economy and our community. It will make our city richer beyond measure.

*Erika McGuire  
Eugene*

**HARD ON KITTIES**

In your April 26 issue, you claim that *Eugene Weekly* is "animal cruelty free." That's not true. When I use it to line my cats' litter box (the only purpose it really serves), it often chafes their a-holes.

*Sean Hughes  
Eugene*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: In this case we recommend using the back page sex column or our music section. We've heard that Savage music soothes the beast.*

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

The commentary in the April 12 issue titled "She Sails the Willamette" touches on the economic issues surrounding the structure, while slanting the article towards the author's, an architect's, viewpoint. I find this troubling that an architect is attempting to influence public opinion on a civil structure.

The ideas presented in the article have implications beyond the cost of the structure which are not addressed as well as leaving out the river and park improvements which could be addressed using the "leftover" budget, which will have lasting effects for the people who actually live in Eugene and are not simply traveling through at 65 mph, which accounts for approximately 9 seconds of travel time to cross the Willamette.

Another consideration which isn't presented to the general public: Who would build such an elaborate structure? Is the citizen advisory group aware of the local industry of bridge builders? Has any architect pointed out that none of the Oregon-based companies are capable of constructing the cable-stayed bridge?

As a project manager for a bridge contractor whose office is in Clackamas, I would assert a need to have local contractors compete for the project along with the slew of out-of-state as well as out-of-country contractors lured to such a large contract. This competition can only be achieved by offering designs which are consistent with local contractors' capabilities or by offering the project delivery as a design build contract. The design build method allows contractors and designers to work together to accomplish a design which is constructible. This option would allow outside contractors and

designers to compete with local contractors and designers to deliver several options on design and price.

*Tim Hutton  
Eugene*

**TAX THE NEW**

No matter how much time passes, apathetic voters continue to elect paternalistic bubbas to make our decisions for us instead of representing the majority of us. Think Gordon Smith and the three Lane County commissioners — who vote their personal choices instead of listening to the majority of their constituents. Since Lane County continues to spend without funding (new buildings, raises for 200 managers, providing pensions instead of 401Ks, etc.), we the voters have to be the creative problem solvers. I suggest an exempting sales tax. The exemptions would include all food, nonalcoholic beverages, medicines, medical services and supplies, home and auto fuel, used goods from retail stores and used autos, trucks and farm equipment. The people with the least money will pay the least taxes. The taxes will allow the county to fund its extravagances and safety from people (including government pensioners) who have money to buy "new" instead of recycling.

*Diana Brown  
Cottage Grove*

**CHANGE IN THINKING**

Bravo to Camilla Mortensen for an excellent, well written, coherent cover story, "The Road to No Kill" (4/26). However, what she didn't mention is one very important piece of the puzzle: The paradigm change that's needed to make No Kill work. We can have the biggest, best organized animal control in the world, but unless the people that are running it are willing to change the way they think about animals, it won't work.

Mike Wellington said "We wouldn't be in this profession if our goal was just to kill animals," but if you kill animals long enough you become inured to the insanity and suffering of killing. In fact you have to, to continue the killing. Just like soldiers who must kill the next person coming over the hill, animal control workers must believe that they are doing what is right and necessary in order to continue killing the animals. So when someone comes along and tells them they don't have to kill anymore, it doesn't compute. They can't let it be true. Because if it is true that they don't have to kill the animals, then they are doing something wrong and horrible. So to keep their sanity, they cannot believe that there is a solution to killing animals.

It is a very sad and uncomfortable issue to face, but it is true. Hopefully our shelter



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