

you can still collect the half-million annually by adding one or two dollars as a street lighting fee to the monthly bills of all the electricity rate payers in Eugene. Citizens would have a greater appreciation (monthly!) of their street lighting (one of those services often taken for granted), and the city would have a substantial pool of money for street repairs.

Am I being too simple-minded?

*Ramona McCall
Eugene*

LIBRARY FRONT YARD?

More green spaces are needed in the downtown area. Wouldn't the large hole across from the library be a great place for a park? I would love to enjoy a relaxing lunch under the shade of a tree before perusing the shelves of the library. Maybe we could even incorporate a small community garden. What a great opportunity to build something really special for the citizens of Eugene that can be enjoyed by all.

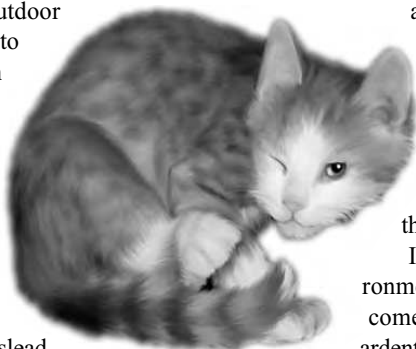
*Stephen Mildrexler
Eugene*

CATS ARE KILLERS

As I expected, my free roaming cat letter hit a nerve. I want to thank Barbara Gunther's letter (7/19) for pointing out that J.R. Yeager did not start the TNR program in San Francisco but did participate in it. And for Sue Mandeville's (7/26) comments, however, it is misleading to minimize the National Audubon Society's official stance on outdoor cats (www.audubon.org/local/cn/98march-nasr.html). I also consider it dishonest for Barbara Gunther to not identify her position as a coordinator of the local Feral Cat Coalition.

While their criticisms of minor points were fair, they misled by not addressing the main concern: that outdoor cats are a significant threat to wildlife. From Audubon Society research, a feral cat's diet contains 20 to 30 percent birds, and feral cat colony programs do not eliminate predation on native wildlife or reduce the size of feral cat colonies.

The term no-kill is misleading since one feral cat kills many hundreds of smaller animals. Audubon Society states that hundreds of millions of native birds and other small animals are killed by cats annually. Anyone would support saving adoptable cats, but supporting feral cats is not environmentally conscious, ethical or humane. The term no-kill is only a bait and switch technique. Cats are a top, if not the top, cause of injuries to small birds brought to Portland's Audubon Care Center, the Willamette Valley Wildlife



Rehabilitation Center and a large portion of kestrels at the Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

According to Audubon, the following groups voice similar opinions: American Ornithologists' Union, American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Inc., the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Bird Conservancy.

*Greg Norman
Eugene*

GREEN THE DOWNTOWN

Greetings! Regarding our pending urban renewal: I am hoping a voting majority of Eugene City Council members decide *not* to give environmentally blind developers millions of city taxpayer dollars, just as our previous City Councils have blindly given Hynix over \$150 million in tax breaks.

I suggest our council require those developers applying for contracts to submit plans designed to include green spaces such as gardens atop new buildings, like the rooftop green spaces made popular in green towns and cities like Chicago.

Eugeneans would support and participate in green development.

If designing such a green space is honestly not feasible, then let's require the developer to paint the rooftop white, reflecting heat just like the remaining Artic and Antarctic snows. And let's provide tax breaks for landlords who convert their existing rooftops to green or white spaces.

Can we ask Hynix to get honest and refund that last tax break they so obviously should not have applied for? Perhaps Hynix would donate to an urban renewal fund. Imagine that!

I also suggest that we do everything possible to avoid development that accentuates our downtown's current lack of appeal; i.e.,

no more designs like the gray fortress that is our new federal building which needs a rooftop garden of thick hanging vines.

If recalling an anti-environment city councilor becomes necessary, then let's ardently pursue having a recall election while re-reading Edward

Abbey's books.

*Charles F. Thielman
Eugene*

ARMS SALE

Ah, so, the American solution to the Middle East war: Give them more bombs because the guns are not efficient enough. Oh, and because Israel objects to Saudi Arabia and Egypt getting to buy loads of bombs, we



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A BENEFIT FOR SASHA (the dog)





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