

NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SUBSIDY

This proposed spending increase of \$40 million to Eugene's Downtown Urban Renewal District comes from diverting your tax dollars away from schools and government services to subsidize private developers. The Urban Renewal District currently has \$4.6 million available without increasing the spending limit.

When Amendment 20-134 is defeated, there will still be more than \$29 million in cash, subsidies and tax breaks to proceed with downtown development.

According to the plan's report, the proposed increase will be funded by reducing revenue to the following government agencies: Eugene School District 4J, Lane ESD, Lane Community College, City of Eugene and Lane County.

Revenue reductions to these agencies will total \$86,940,000 (yes, that's millions!) over the next 23 years if the plan amendment is not defeated. Where do you think schools and governments will get the money to make up such significant losses?

Proponents claim the \$40 million increase won't affect your taxes. But voters know better and are all too familiar with the way government has tried to replace lost revenue with gas taxes, Public Safety income taxes, operating levies and bond measures. When those attempts fail, services are cut.

As state, county and city elected representatives, we have made budget decisions that were painfully difficult because they required gut-wrenching prioritization. If your government will not prioritize its expenditures in a fiscally responsible manner, then it is up to voters to exercise fiscal discipline by voting no on 20-134.

The private developer is requiring a guaranteed 13 percent profit from the city, but there are *no* guarantees the \$40 million subsidy will provide public benefits such as new family-wage jobs, ensuring area wage standards or keeping a level playing field for local businesses.

This downtown development proposal does not justify such an excessive public subsidy. There is no evidence to verify that this tax giveaway will produce any material benefit to Eugene's downtown or taxpayers. There is evidence that it will produce a substantial funding deficit.

As elected representatives, we cannot, in good conscience, support new revenue sources or service cuts unless we stand up and oppose unjustified tax giveaways. Please *vote no* on the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment 20-134.

*State Rep. Paul Holvey
Lane County Commissioner
Peter Sorenson
Eugene City Councilor
Bonny Bettman*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RANDOM MOMENTS

by Dustin Freechild



HUMPTY DUMPTY HAD A GREAT FALL...

tive population. Which animals are virtually always targeted? It's not the weak or sick individuals, but the biggest, strongest and healthiest individuals.

Mr. Gooch goes on to state that "modern conservation practices *through hunting* are the reason we have healthy wildlife populations in the U.S." He's kidding, right?

Large game was living and surviving long before our precious species interfered and destroyed their habitat. They will survive and prevail if we appreciate them from a distance.

*AJ Fisher
Eugene*

TO BE AND TO DO

This week I heard a Buddhist monk speak about the violence towards monks who were protesting in the country formerly known as Burma. The monk was asked what we in the rest of the world could do to help. The monk suggested we each look inside ourselves at what we each are at war with — at the violence within our own hearts — and that would make a world of difference.

"Yes," said the journalist, "but what can we DO?"

I don't know about the rest of you, but facing myself and my mistakes is a lifetime of work. It's frustrating, scary and humiliating. I strive to turn the humiliation into humility and then humor, but I still find myself hurting people in the name of trying to get people to stop hurting each other.

I don't advocate navel-gazing in place of activism, but neither do I want to try to create social change while unaware of my own fucked up intentions.

Since a car accident in 1999, I have gone from middle-class business owner and homeowner to someone living below the poverty line with chronic pain and PTSD. Even on the worst days, I can see it's the second best thing to ever happen to me (first was my kids). I had to face and still face my classism and shame about poverty and disability. And my stripped-down life is dearer and richer than anything I could have imagined while trying to be middle class.

I have lots of time to think about my life and what I could do to make the world a better place. I'm inspired by that monk to believe that if we face ourselves with compassion and make our own mistakes right, we will begin to treat each other better day to day. What a powerful way to create peace — by striving to treat each person in our lives as an equal!

I remember sitting in class in grade school and being overwhelmed by a desire to stand up and say, "Why can't we all just be nice to each other?" I was aware of what would happen on the playground if I did, so I stayed silent. But that naïve child inside me still wants to exhort us all, "Please, please, be good to each other!"

*Ruby Colette
Eugene*

BE SMART: SUPERVISE

Every now and then a band of wild turkeys passes by and over my neighborhood. This morning, while I was watching a foraging family of these beautiful birds, an unleashed border collie raced right at them, narrowly undershooting the awkwardly elevating adults. The only thing preventing what would in nature be considered a "clean kill" was the training this doggie received and thus responded to. I watched in amazement as the scene — which nearly ended up in blood and feathers flying — was turned into a display of self-discipline by another nearly wild creature. Fate was trumped by the supervision of an adult human. This same technique also works with kids most of the time. The key word here is supervision. It works most of the time when we humans choose to employ it.

*Dan Dubach
Eugene*

ARMY, INC.

I have the perfect solution for the war in Iraq. Since the private contractors now outnumber our troops, let's just make all of our military a private corporation. Give everyone in America \$1,000 worth of stock in let's call it The Prescott Bush Hessian Memorial Army

Corporation. Register the corp. in an offshore account, eliminating any taxes. And since they would be a private army, they could be like Blackwater and not subject to any laws of war. Plus you could eliminate all the money spent on vet health care. A win-win solution for all stockholders. Like the Hessians, you could use people in prison and any illegal aliens that we catch. Since all Americans would profit, nobody would protest as our private army secured the world's remaining resources for the benefit of our children's future.

*Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain*

PERFECTION IS THE ENEMY

I'm a little perturbed by all the hardliners who are against Measure 49 because it's not "perfect." Is it perfect that I'm forced to pay for a war I've been against since before it began? Is it perfect that the federal government gets to systematically dismantle the rules that have protected the irreplaceable oldgrowth and wild places of Oregon without our input? Is M49 perfect? It's perfect for me because it is NOW. A perfect solution three years from now doesn't work for me. As anyone who has lived in Oregon since the start of Measure 37 can see, three years can cut down a lot of trees, bulldoze a lot of roads and build a lot of houses.

I've heard over and over, "They won't build more houses because the market can't sustain it." How's that working out? More and more developments, farther and farther away from people's work and shopping, thus more and more gasoline and pollution to get people where they want to go. We need a solution NOW. If it's not perfect for you, vote yes to stop the big-time-developer gluttony now, and then put your money where your mouth is and come up with a "perfect" solution for later.

*Rozelle Burcher
Fall Creek*

VOTE YES ON 49

As I was sorting through once but no longer used items in an effort to downsize, I found an old bumper sticker: "Don't Californicate Oregon."

It reminded me of the good old pre-Measure 37 days when land-use regulation and quality of life mattered to Oregonians. And of a good old governor, Tom — Visit, But Don't Move Here! — McCall, who cared enough to protect what had been special about our state.

People flee California and other overdeveloped states to escape the crowds and sprawl and traffic and pollution that they have been regulation-free to create. With Measure 37 and the end of land-use oversight in Oregon, these folks are now able to re-create their nightmare right here in our river cities.

Downsize or upsize? You can vote for Measure 49 to restore some degree of land-use sanity in our state. Or you can join the deregulation emigrés when they see what Measure 37 has wrought here and turn around at the border. You'll recognize their bumper stickers: "Don't Oregonize California."

*Benton Elliott
Eugene*

BIODIESEL AIN'T BOGUS

I read William Porter's letter (8/30) about