

RAILYARD HEALTH RISKS

As a 30-year resident of the River Road area, there are many issues that draw my attention. But as a retired registered nurse and property owner, I am particularly concerned about the health risks associated with the Union Pacific railyard pollution in my neighborhood.

The toxic underground plume resulting in groundwater contamination and the potential danger of highly toxic chemicals leaching into the soil of residents' yards and under their homes has been deeply troubling for some time now. Despite numerous public forums with the DEQ, railroad officials and concerned residents, our current north Eugene county commissioner has been conspicuously absent, and I do not feel that we are being adequately represented.

The time is ripe for responsible leadership to take acting to protect the public health of those of us living in the affected areas. I believe that Rob Handy, candidate for north Eugene county commissioner, would be highly effective in implementing responsive outcomes. He has a long history of working tirelessly for the community, and I am confident that he has the necessary skills and dedication to achieve solutions to a situation that threatens to undermine our long-term health.

*Barbara Suter
Eugene*

NOTHING TO SAY?

On Jan. 18, BLM Director Jim Caswell met with members of the Associated Oregon Loggers Inc. to discuss the plans for the upcoming WOPR (Western Oregon Plan Revisions). I am currently a student at the UO and am working with a group on campus called "Keep it Wild" that hosted a WOPR Forum Jan. 22 on campus.

We have invited the BLM to every forum. Their excuse: "We have nothing left to say." I have found this very disrespectful to the students and the "nonloggers" of Oregon. What exactly does "We have nothing left to say" mean?

We are students who are paying a lot of money to attend this university to pursue a major of our choice and to learn as much as we possibly can about important issues that obtain to our major. All we are asking is for a member from the opposing side of

this issue to come and talk us, the students, in person about what is currently happening with this very important issue.

"Keep it Wild" has been doing a lot of work informing students about the WOPR. We are asking Sen. Wyden and Congressman DeFazio to use their power and take a strong stand against the WOPR. In addition, there is going to be a large rally/march at noon on Friday, March 7, to protest the WOPR. Oregon cannot afford to lose anymore old-growth trees. We need to protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clear cut these natural treasures.

*Ian van Ornum
Eugene*

NIKE ARENA LAND

I've been reviewing UO land use tricks for quite a while, and the easiest way to understand the UO president's action relating to his arena proposal is to accept that the underlying intent is to reconfigure and dramatically expand the UO campus.

The arena proposal has nothing to do with serving the needs or interests of the fans, students or surrounding community.

UO President Frohnmayer's failure to include parking provisions shows the chaos strategy that the president hopes will enable him to sustain acquisition of parcels which surround UO and UO Foundation land.

It is the goal of our governor, Nike, Frohnmayer and UO Housing Director Mike Eyster to establish an elite riverfront research live/work urban village "renaissance" to replace the businesses, housing and natural areas that now exist near Franklin Boulevard. That is what the Kilkenny-funded study called the Farkas Report calls for.

The recent change to completely public financing of the arena is likely to ensure that Frohnmayer retains the ability to utilize eminent domain to seize properties that Phil Knight determines necessary for his architect's master planning. By keeping the arena categorized as a public project, private interests can help to steer the UO land annexation surge and gain control of property using the university as their acquisition tool.

*Zachary Vishonoff
Eugene*

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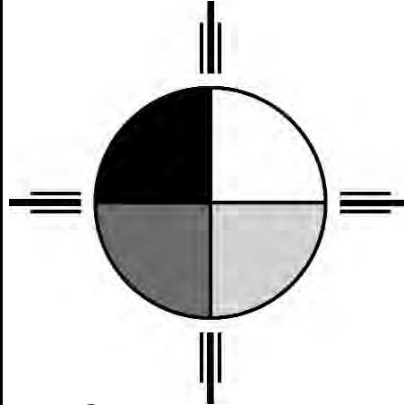
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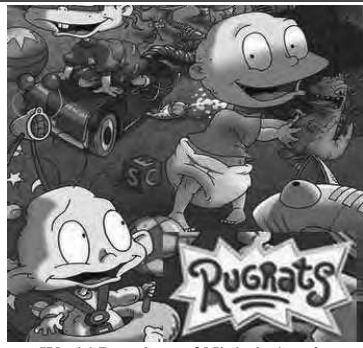
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