

Particular thanks to Mayor Piercy for her strong leadership on this issue, and to Councilors Taylor and Bettman for their steadfast support. I believe that in future days, all will look back in pride at this wonderful legacy. Now, let's finish this process by purchasing the other Amazon Headwaters site: the Beverly property!

On a more somber note, "thumbs down" to our police chief and city manager for their secret handshakes and pushback on independent audit. One would think that after the damage done — and allowed to be done — by officers Magaña and Lara to their victims and to our community (in both trust and treasure), law enforcement and city leadership would be at the head of the line to support independent verification of a new and improved EPD. Since this is clearly not the case, I hope the mayor and councilors will make it clear that this attitude needs to change or the leaders will be.

Benton Elliott
Eugene

RIGHTS GOING ... GOING ...

On May 30, from noon to 1:15 pm, I stood 30 feet from Ian Van Ornum's theater antics at a pesticide rally on the intersection of Willamette and Broadway. I did not see a single vehicle being impeded by Van Ornum — who was arrested at 1:25 pm and charged with blocking traffic.

I have recently discovered the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) filed the complaint that Van Ornum was blocking traffic. I assert that the OHS filed false charges against Van Ornum on that day; this in itself is a criminal offense.

A grand jury has now been convened by Lane County District Attorney Doug Harclerod. However, the grand jury is not investigating the possible filing of false charges by the OHS, nor the crime of using unnecessary and deadly force to beat and Tase Van Ornum by two rogue EPD officers. Instead Harclerod has called a grand jury to pursue more charges against people whose only purpose was to practice their constitutional rights — the same rights many men and women have fought and died to defend. The basic right to peaceable assembly, the right to freedom of speech (to expose corruption) and the right to ask our government for a redress of grievances was seriously violated in Eugene on May 30, 2008.

Should others and I now be afraid to practice our civil and constitutional rights? By the illegal actions of the Office of Homeland Security, the illegal actions of two rogue EPD officers and the coercive actions by the DA, I question whether we still have any constitutional rights.

Shannon Wilson
Eugene

WHY DID HYNIX WAIT?

Despite the major changes that have occurred in the U.S. relative to manufacturing and the resulting disruptions to our way of life, Americans remain quite naïve about the politics that caused these changes. The U.S. government and large corporations played a key role in turning communist China into the world's manufacturer of choice. What they saw was very cheap labor, no environmental controls, no unions, no health insurance

— a situation very much like the working conditions of early America.

With prodding from the U.S. government and business community, China accomplished their goals for them by putting down worker dissent with tanks and guns and then enslaving the poor workers in unsafe sweatshops in heavily polluted towns.

So what happened? The major disruptions to our way of life got under way when both political parties bowed to their corporate sponsors and became dedicated to the lofty ideals of capitalism. Deregulation, free trade, globalization — all benefit corporations and screw workers. When the controls were lifted, corporations started shipping their work overseas to capitalize on the reduced costs. Nice guys had no choice; in order to compete, they had to ship their work overseas.

I worked all my life for IBM, whose employee policies and commitments were unmatched. IBM had to join the rest and start letting workers go. Many friends and I were offered early retirement and put to pasture; most of IBM's U.S. plant sites have been shut down — some leveled. I receive an employee discount, but how ironic: Each time I receive a new PC or laptop, it has a stamp that says, "Made in China."

The real question is in not why Hynix is leaving, but why it has waited so long.

The Shock Doctrine by Naomi Klein is an excellent source for information about these things

Wayne Pierce
Eugene

WHY HYNIX STAYED

Sadly, Eugene continues with its historical position of always being just behind the curve. Years ago it destroyed its people-scaled downtown when nationwide other cities had already found that malls were failures as cures for downtown ills. Industrial parks were also proven failures when Eugene established one along the Willamette River.

Economists reviewing tax breaks and other benefits used to attract industry had already shown the practice to have negative results when the city began its campaign to attract Hyundai, now Hynix. As it turns out, Hynix stayed in Eugene not because of the millions in savings but because it was a good place to operate to avoid the consequences of unfair business practices. Now Hynix is packing up, and the city finds itself with no provision for financial clawbacks included in its original agreements. We can now expect years of expensive legal action trying to force Hynix to clean up the mess left behind with the probable result Hynix will walk away, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill.

The development of the millrace offers a chance to enhance the attractiveness of downtown beyond anything a private developer could suggest. It sits stagnant and ignored while Springfield seizes the opportunity to capitalize on their own historical past to make its millrace a catalyst for improvement and development.

When will we ever learn?

R.C. Cross
Eugene

BURNED & SPURNED

Reading the story on Hynix's closure (7/31), it seemed ever so clear that Eugene



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