

commissioner.

Carleen Reilly
Eugene

RENEW THE LEVY

I'm writing to remind Eugene voters to once again support our school levy, Measure 20-137.

Voting for schools may seem like a no-brainer, but we shouldn't take it for granted. Many people don't even know that the local option levy is up for renewal. Most are also worried about the economy and may be tempted by the prospect of a quick, albeit small, tax cut. Some may think our schools have plenty of money. (If you do think that, you should visit a school and see how big our class sizes are)

So here are the facts: The levy is a critical part of our Eugene school budget. It provides funding equivalent to running two of our four high schools for a year. We don't want to imagine Eugene schools without it. It's NOT a tax increase. It just continues the local option we already have. In a changing and even scary world, we've got to make sure our kids have the support they need to be successful people, and good world citizens.

More than ever, we need to support kids, and keep supporting their education. Please vote to renew the 4J local option levy. Vote yes on Measure 20-137.

Joy Marshall
Stand for Children
Eugene

KITTY AT THE DOOR

Kitty Piercy came to our rental in west Eugene while stumping for votes. My husband and I recently relocated from 16-plus years in Seattle where not once did any candidate ever knock on our door, nor during that time spent living in the city proper were we the victims of crime. So what fun he had sharing with her that our neighbor's car had been stolen just the night before and that our own vehicle was vandalized and burgled the previous month.

And her response? That it would most likely get worse before it got better.

I was going to vote for you anyway, Kitty Piercy. But I especially appreciate your candor and willingness to cross the tracks into the "bad" side of town to entertain concerns of we less fortunates. Employment opportunities and public safety would also be a welcomed bonus; thank you.

And this nonsense regarding presumed traffic jams so horrific there's a need to cause environmental distress to alleviate the inconvenience? Please — that would be cute if it weren't so shortsighted and detrimental. You don't know from gridlock, Eugene.

SS Stansbury
Eugene

GREEN NOT INVOLVED

I have been a River Road resident for 43 years, and until this campaign season I had only vaguely heard of Bobby Green. He is not an active participant in my community. Last spring when Commissioner Green spoke at a River Road monthly organizational meeting, he admitted he had not been to a meeting for four years.

Contrary to an Oct. 11 editorial in the R-G, I do not believe that Bobby Green has been instrumental in facilitating legislation to restore the county federal timber

payments. Credit for restoration of those funds should go to our diligent members of Congress. But Green now wants to take credit for it. As for how to spend this one-time windfall, Green will no doubt vote for projects that will benefit his big campaign contributors. That's why I'm voting for Rob Handy this November.

Handy's personal contact with thousands of Lane County residents provides him a clear understanding of how to allocate these previous resources to benefit all of the citizens in Lane County. I will vote for Handy because of his strong leadership skills, his ability to see many points of view, and his active participation in the north Eugene district.

Dona Shields
Eugene

SUSTAINABULLSHIT

The only surprise about the global financial crash is that it took this long for it to start, since something that is "unsustainable" is not merely a bad idea but unable to continue indefinitely. Most media reports on money problems, including the recent EW cover story (10/9), ignore the root causes and avoid even approaching needed solutions.

Our monetary system is based on debt and compound interest, which results in an ever-expanding amount of "money" chasing dwindling natural resources on our finite planet.

The geologist M. King Hubbert, who invented the methods to model the rise and fall of fossil fuels, wrote eloquently about how sincerely sustainable solutions would require money that was no longer based on debt and instead used natural resources as the basis for a steady state economic system. This would be considerably more sophisticated than the old gold standard.

Many well-meaning environmentalists, such as the city's Sustainability Commission, promote the concept of the "triple bottom line," an effort to include social justice and ecology into economic decisions. But the environment is not a co-equal concept — energy creates money, not the other way around. Former World Bank economist Herman Daly has written eloquently about how "sustainable growth" is an oxymoron, and a steady state economic model would be needed for genuine sustainability.

As collapse becomes more obvious, there has been an increase in distracting greenwash to confuse concerned citizens — "sustainabullshit."

See www.oilempire.us/peak-money.html for information about steady state, sustainable economics.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

POSITIVE VISION

Soon this long and arduous political campaign season will be over. I'm not sure I'm relieved because, as when I'm climbing a hill, I don't know what might be on the other side. Both nationally and locally, we are offered two distinct landscapes. Both nationally and locally, we can opt for a government whose decisions are based on the long term good of the whole or we can have the power politics that reward the few. I don't know how people make their choices, but I want a community — and a country — that is inclusive of all with a leader who inspires our basic goodness. I'm tired of fear tactics that make us divisive



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Keiko Matsui

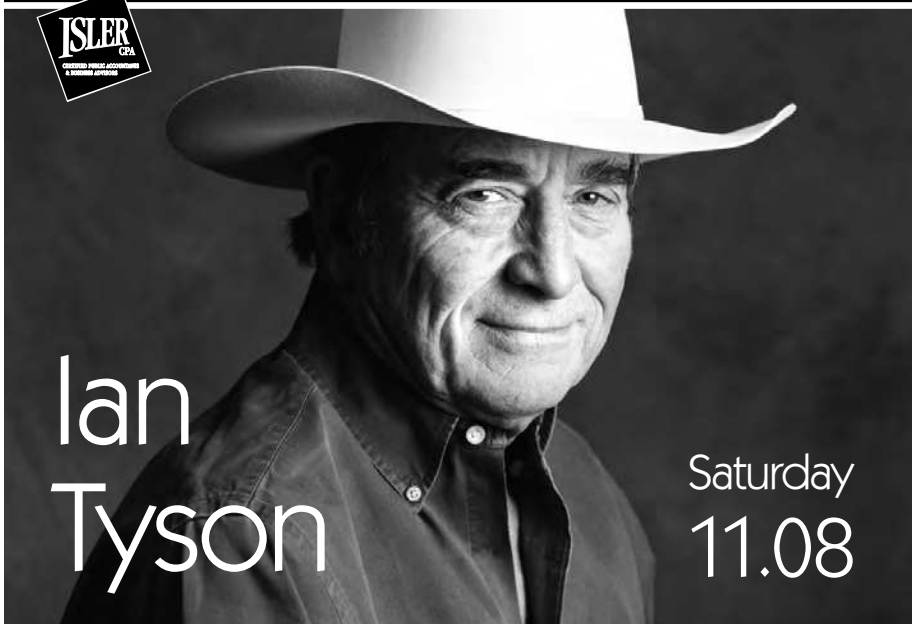
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