

Something Eug!

HEY, EVERYBODY!

Both FULL CITY coffee shops are having a benefit for five year old **AVERY BULL...** A great little guy with great big medical expenses (surgery, chemotherapy, etc... MORE DETAILS AT FULL CITY). So, swing by either shop on **FRIDAY, MARCH 20th** for your latte or whatever. All proceeds will go to Avery's fund!

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE ANYTIME AT DOWNTOWN SELCO. JUST MENTION AVERY.

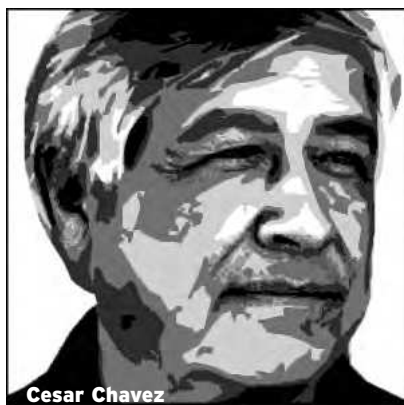


Denise R.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• The seventh annual **Cesar Chavez birthday commemoration** is planned for 6:30 pm Thursday, March 19, at Agnes Stewart Middle School on South 32nd in Springfield. "We will celebrate the legacy of a man who devoted his life to workers' rights and nonviolent social change," say organizers. For more information, email SAFER1214@gmail.com or call 726-7377.

• The local **Campaign to End Field Burning** now has a website to provide information and help more people get involved. Visit www.endfieldburning.org or call the Western Environmental Law



Center at 485-2471. And a white paper on field burning is now available from the Oregon Toxics Alliances, online at www.oregontoxics.org

• Lane County is seeking public input on a **habitat plan for Mt. Pisgah's Howard Buford Recreation Area**. An open house and workshop are planned from 5:30 to 8 pm Thursday, March 19, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. The meeting is hosted by Lane County Parks Division and Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah, and will describe the park's habitats, threats to key natural resources, and seek input on ways to sustain these habitats for future generations to enjoy.

• Local issues regarding **blindness and low-vision** will be discussed at the next meeting of the new Lane County Council of the Blind Chapter, at 4 pm Thursday, March 19, at room 302 of the LCC Downtown Center, 1059 Willamette. For more information, call Rob Cook at 741-4367 or 510-6160.

ON THE WEB THIS WEEK

• More **letters to the editor** and a Viewpoint from Lynn Porter challenging Obama to live up to expectations.

• At **blogs.eugenewekly.com**: Suzi reviews and posts photos from the opera *Don Giovanni*; ponders live theater and its impact on the economy in Ashland and Eugene; and notes the personnel problems at Oregon's *Just Out* LGBT newspaper. Alan

Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

JACQUIE AND DR. RICHARD LITCHFIELD

The descendants of pioneer families who arrived in Oregon in the 1850s and 1890s, respectively, Richard Litchfield of Newport met his wife Jacquie while both were students at Willamette University in her home town of Salem. Richard went on to dental school in Portland, then served an orthodontic residency in New Jersey, while Jacquie came to Eugene for a master's in counseling. He rejoined her here in 1971 and had a private practice in orthodontics until his retirement two years ago. She worked as a school counselor in the 4J District. "About 12 years ago, I felt I needed to contribute something," says Richard, who signed up with Health Volunteers Overseas to teach orthodontics at a dental school in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2000. "Jacquie came along to teach English." The couple fell in love with the country and the people they met. This year they will return to familiar lodgings at the "Lucky Hotel" in Hanoi for the 10th consecutive year. "My style of teaching is to observe and diagnose cases together and share western techniques," says Richard. "The idea for me is to get to the peasants. The people we teach will teach others who work in the hamlets and villages."



• We're astounded that the police **Civilian Review Board** is even considering kicking the public out of its meetings and holding them in "executive session." The CRB is not a secret society or private club. It is a public body that's required by law to hold public meetings and whose primary mission is to increase the transparency of the police complaint process. Without openness there's little point in the CRB. Eugene tried secret police review meetings. We got cops out raping or sexually abusing people in the dark.

• The puffs of smoke have emerged, and the secret cabal that runs **the UO has given the institution a new pope**, er, president, Richard Lariviere. Lariviere swooshed into office last week in the wake of the state higher ed board's secret hiring process. Who is he? What does he think of the tough sports vs. academics and donors vs. democracy issues the UO is grappling with? Who knows? Phil Knight probably knows, and that made La-what's-his-face a slam dunk.

• Dealing with **congestion in west Eugene** is one of the most divisive issues Eugene has faced in decades, pitting conservatives against progressives and even defining council and mayoral races. The battle over the proposed West Eugene Parkway (WEP) finally ended with Mayor Kitty Piercy's tie-breaking vote to withdraw city support for the highway. The ill-conceived parkway through protected wetlands would likely have never survived legal challenges, but the unresolved WEP question stood in the way of better solutions for dealing with traffic and other issues in west Eugene.

Plenty of skepticism surrounded the formation of the West Eugene Coalition (WEC). Was it really possible for developers, business owners, city officials and environmentalists to work together with mediators to come up with a workable transportation plan for the area? It was a difficult two-year process and we won't know the results until a few years have passed. Meanwhile, the collaboration can serve as a model for how a politically divided city and county can come together to resolve big issues.

We will see the details of the WEC plan Friday (see News Briefs). Congrats to all those who participated in the process. The latest list of WEC members includes John Allcott, Susan Ban, Alan Buck, Rick Duncan, Gerry Gaydos, Rob Inerfeld, Patricia Johnston, Don Kahle, Kevin Matthews, Aleta Miller, Ed Moor, Deborah Noble, Mary O'Brien, Kitty Piercy, Emily Proudfoot, Chris Pryor, Larry Reed, Rusty Rexius, Jack Roberts, Tom Schwetz, Faye Stewart, Paul Thompson, Jim Welsh, Gary Wildish, Sue Wolling, Jan Wostmann and Rob Zako.

• **More good news on the local economy** could be found in Jack Roberts' talk to City Club last week. Roberts heads the Lane Metro Partnership and he sees our valley as poised to recover well once the economy turns around. He figures the local RV industry will revive but will no longer be a growth industry. He sees the empty Hynix plant as a good site for solar panel construction, perhaps even as a joint venture between Hynix and another company. Eugene is already growing new technology enterprises, he says, and a cluster of natural foods manufacturers is expanding distribution nationwide. Our well-educated and trained workforce is also attractive for business and industry coming in or expanding.

Roberts is still a big advocate for expanding our urban growth boundary, enterprise zones and creating more industrial land, and he still thinks Hynix was a net gain for Eugene. What Roberts doesn't figure into his calculations are the financial liabilities from trashing our land, air and water. Poorly regulated industries generate profits while they can, then leave us picking up the tab for habitat destruction, blight and generations of victims of asthma, cancer and countless other ailments. And do we even know what toxic chemicals are left behind at Hynix? Our economic future might better lie in arts, education and green small business rather than Roberts's mix which includes heavy industry. For instance, the news that the Lord Leebrick Theatre is buying a huge chunk of Connor & Woolley property might mean a huge step for a languishing area of downtown.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugenewekly.com

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