

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

who don't like that idea much. That's why we need Sally's voice. Maybe Steve Downey (letters, 5/7) should just climb into his homophobic rowboat and paddle his butt out of here.

*John Reed
Eugene*

TREES PLEASE

In response to Mayo Finch (letters, 4/30), I'd like to know where he's been the last five years. Yes, trees have been removed, but in the meantime, hundreds have been planted. I would urge Finch to get in contact with the city of Eugene's NeighborWoods program and the Urban Forestry department (682-4800) before writing such a hasty letter.

As public servants, city employees are required to release information regarding tree removal as well as tree planting — [information you could find out] if you would take the time to call instead of solely relying on assumptions.

I give you this, Mayo: Trees have not always been replaced right away after their demise, but a lot more *city trees* have been planted than removed the last five years, even the last 10! In fact, you mentioned the intersection of 13th and Pearl, but should you have traveled a few blocks west on Arbor Day, April 11, you'd have discovered 30 new trees planted by neighbors, volunteers of the Eugene Tree Foundation and city staff at the corner of 13th and Olive. For that occasion, not only did we plant trees, but the city also removed 50 tons of concrete to create planting beds.

We now have trees where there were none or less before, and some beds were enlarged, as part of our "Trees for Concrete Program." The ETF has planted more than 2,000 trees since 1997 as a volunteer-based organization alone. I don't recall seeing your name on the volunteer presence list! Tree planting happens all the time during fall and winter. It's not as obvious and shocking as a tree removal, but it's happening. Just look around or ask next time. You're welcome.

*Alby Thoumsin
ETF Education Chair*

WHOM DOES SALLY HATE?

I don't know what wall Steve Downey (5/7) is bouncing off of, but Sally Sheklow is a good friend of mine, and has been for years. I am male. I am one of many of Sally's good male friends. I have never heard her disparage or hate men in any stereotypical way. Sheklow likes dogs. She likes cats. She likes flowers, gardening, cooking, music, laughing, women, babies, and ... oh ... she likes men ... or, at least some of them. Maybe she only likes some women ... etc.

I do know that Sheklow does not like closed-minded, prejudiced, homophobic, anti-Semitic men (or women). And when such a man is overtly destructive and dangerous, then I suspect she may hate him ... specifically. Does Steve?

*Irwin Noparstak
Eugene*

STUMPED BY UMPQUA

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when I learned that Umpqua Bank — whose chairman of the board, Allyn Ford, is the most powerful timber baron in the Pacific Northwest — had opened an "eco-banking"

division.

How can we take Umpqua Bank's newfound "green" conscience seriously when the individual running the show is personally responsible for unsustainable toxic clearcutting across his 800,000 acres of industrial forestlands in Oregon and California — not to mention logging public land native forests, such as the Elliott State Forest and Umpqua National Forest?

As sole owner of Roseburg Forest Products, Ford's name is written all over every one of his clearcuts — with the blame for the resulting global warming gases, topsoil erosion and depletion and smothered salmon laid squarely on his shoulders.

Ford is also responsible for the toxic contamination of drinking water sources and for the poisoning of rural Oregon families (on their own properties!) through the aerial spraying of pesticides over his clearcuts that drift for miles through the air.

To learn more about the boycott of Umpqua Bank, go to stumpquabank.com

*Josh Schlossberg
Eco Advocates
Eugene*

MAKING CENTS

One of the fundamental rules of civilized life is that we first tend to the needs of the most vulnerable, even in a crisis. Congress's Ways and Means Committee should consider not only budget cuts, but also new taxes based on ability to pay.

During the last economic cycle, Oregon did even better than the rest of the country, but ALL of the gains went to those in the top two-fifths of the pay scale. The richest 1,500 Oregon households had about \$28 billion in total income, nearly equaling total State General Fund revenue for the period.

An 11 percent bracket for joint filers making more than a half-million dollars or singles making half that would raise about \$480 million a biennium, from fewer than one in 100 Oregon taxpayers. We should also raise another \$750 million a biennium from profitable corporations. The current \$10 minimum tax was set in 1931 (see "State of Working Oregon" at www.ocpp.org). These two measures alone would prevent many cuts, preserving lives, livelihoods and hundreds of millions in federal matching funds.

While enabling the Department of Justice to enforce civil rights and environmental laws, we should explore whether environmental enforcement might also raise revenue for the general fund. The Legislature should ask our congressional delegation to seek a second federal stimulus package, primarily as aid to states. Otherwise, \$350 billion in state service cuts and tax increases over 2009-2010 will negate about half of the federal stimulus thus far.

*Robert Roth
Eugene*

TREE CITY USA

Dear Mayo Finch (letters, 4/30): While I am pleased to hear that you are concerned about the urban forest of our beautiful city, I disagree that the city of Eugene is not replacing trees that have been removed. I have attended three different events since February organized by the Eugene Tree Foundation and the city's Public Works Department. In fact, rather than being anti-trees, Eugene was



BURRITO AMIGOS

Stop in and visit us today at one of our 9 convenient locations in the Eugene and Springfield area!!

1136 HWY 99, EUGENE | 2445 HILYARD ST., EUGENE
1239 ALDER ST., EUGENE | 1333 W. 6TH ST., EUGENE
1600-2 COBURG RD., EUGENE | 201 42ND ST., SPRINGFIELD
GATEWAY MALL FOOD COURT, SPRINGFIELD
FOOD KIOSKS INFRONT OF BOTH
JERRY'S HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTERS IN EUGENE & SPRINGFIELD
ALSO VISIT US ONLINE @ WWW.BURRITOAMIGOS.COM

MAY SPECIAL \$5.75

Cheese Quesadilla w/ Chips & Salsa

CARPET SPECIAL

Nylon Filament

\$5.99/Yd





Imperial Floors

FLOOR COVERING & DECORATING CENTER

CARPET • VINYL • HARDWOOD • CERAMIC • STONE • LAMINATES • WINDOW COVERINGS

355 Lincoln, Eugene • www.imperialfloors.com • 342-5031

Mon - Fri 8 - 5:30 • Sat 9 - 5 ccb# 00090



Oregon Medical Group's Vascular and Vein Center

offers specialized treatment for varicose veins and spider veins, ensuring your comfort and quick recovery from these simple, non-invasive procedures.

Isn't it delightful to have such lovely legs?



Call us today; your veins will look better tomorrow.

For an appointment, call 228.3380

Oregon Medical Group
Surgery Department
Vascular and Vein Center
360 Garden Way, S-290 – Eugene

oregonmedicalgroup.com



Be well.