

Letters TO THE EDITOR

The Coastal Range used to be an area of old growth forests that was a one-of-a-kind place in the country. However, extensive logging has reduced nearly all of the Coastal Range to a patchwork of tree farms and clear-cuts. The Devil's Staircase is pristine and untouched, and serves as a historic landmark of what the Range used to be like. It is very important to permanently protect it from logging by making it wilderness. Only 4 percent of Oregon's public land is set aside as wilderness, while surrounding states like Idaho, Washington, and California all have over 10 percent of their public land protected. It's time for Oregon to step up and protect more land, as we *all* know that we have just as many amazing places in our state.

Bryan Warf
Eugene

CHINESE IMMERSION

David Atman's "The China Connection" (6/5) raises an important issue: the value of Eugene's immersion system.

It is an absolute treasure. Graduating from Fox Hollow French Immersion School (now Charlemagne) in 1996 I wasn't fully aware of this fact, but then again I was 11 years old. Since then the feedback from my national and international conversations concerning my education has been overwhelmingly positive. "Amazed" is the best word to describe people's faces when they learn that a city the size of Eugene provides such an extensive public language immersion system.

I'm amazed too. Since graduating, I've learned to speak fluent Spanish, decent Mandarin and I'm working on my Italian. But I don't disillusion myself: While I am

extremely proud of these accomplishments I realize that the real credit belongs to the language immersion I received at Fox Hollow.

The strength of our existing immersion system is good reason for us to fill the Mandarin gap. The addition seems obvious: There are 855 million native speakers and they sell us \$26 billion of products annually. At some point, speaking their language needs to become a priority for us, just as speaking English has become a priority for them. Otherwise, we may quickly find ourselves at an international disadvantage.

Erin Noble
Eugene

SUSTAINABLE TROUBLE

The city of Eugene likes to engage in endless and meaningless discussions about "sustainability" and dense mixed-use urban village "visions." These processes lead nowhere and result in sustainable fiscal and political trouble for City Hall. I am attempting to divert the city out of this costly and unproductive spiral.

At 11:50 am Friday, July 10, the City Club of Eugene will hold a real conversation on a realistic planning proposal at the Eugene Hilton. If you miss the event you can also hear the entire program on KLCC the following Monday at 6:30 pm. I hope you will take part in this event and bring questions.

The topic is a fiscally and environmentally sound proposal to move City Hall to the existing EWEB building along the riverfront. City Councilor Mike Clark will present his commonsense ideas about the feasibility of this plan. This talk, and the debate that follows, could help set a

EUGENE WEEKLY'S CAMP GUIDE

