

ILLEGAL VEGGIES

This letter is to notify the city of Eugene and River Road community that Jen Hornaday's 11-year-old organic sunflower, veggie gardens at the end of East Maynard Avenue are being put to rest.

The city of Eugene's new encroachment policy has demanded the removal of these gardens that are located on public land adjoining the side of my house. With fines of up to \$500 a day for growing vegetables, we've decided to dig up our plants and move on. The city has not only insisted on the removal of the gardens but the area will also be graded and reseeded with grass. The date the gardens go back to grass is Oct. 31.

The city has stated that a letter of complaint was sent out more than two years ago, but as of now we have not received any such letter. A follow-up from the city would have been thoughtful.

We would like to personally thank our local River Road community friends and neighbors for all the letters of support to try and save these beautiful organic gardens. We would also like to invite you all to come by and see the gardens and say your goodbyes one last time. Please feel free to pick a sunflower and plant the seeds in your own garden at home.

Also, if there is anyone in the River Road area who has any sunny garden space available for us to plant marionberries, raspberries and/or garlic, please let us know.

Jen & Doug Hornaday
Eugene

DOG OWNER

I am a "newbie" in Oregon; I have only been here for 12 years. I am writing about our Congressman Peter DeFazio. My favorite store is our Bi-Mart in Springfield. I was shopping around and there was this guy, in the dog food aisle, with coupons in hand searching out the specials. Since I had the same coupons, I began to talk with him about the cost of things.

As we talked like two ordinary people I thought, "I know this person." So, I finally asked, "Do I know you?" He said that he was Peter. I said, "Congressman?" He said, "Dog owner." We laughed because we both knew: They own us.

I must say that he is just a great guy, real, human and so much in touch with us regular people. We talked about our dogs, about the cost of human food, about the forests and the watersheds. I am so impressed with his depth and knowledge about, and concern for our life in this land we call home. Although I called Ohio home for most of my life, I love Oregon, and I really love having Peter DeFazio representing me in the House of Representatives.

Karren A. Lansky
Springfield

TEMPORARY FIX

The article "School's Out" (cover story, 9/23) discusses one solution for closing the giant budget deficit for 4J schools — higher taxes. What isn't addressed is the underlying sustainability of the educational system itself. How long will it be before District 4J is again in trouble and



needs further financial assistance? How high can taxes go?

One solution that was not given nearly enough discussion is to change the system itself, as suggested by the report from the Thought Leaders Group. Innovative schools that change the traditional model of education are springing up across the country, using ideas similar to those in the report, such as high school students taking college courses, internships, independent study and online coursework. In fact, there are high schools in some states that are 100 percent online.

There are also new ideas cropping up that did not appear in the report — for example, the idea of a teacher-led school, which is essentially a school in which the teachers, as a group, serve as the leadership team. Having visited many of these schools, two things struck me — one was the sense of empowerment and pride that I saw in the teachers, and the second was that every single school was showing a budget surplus. This idea is starting to get national attention, as evidenced by recent articles in the *Christian Science Monitor* and *Huffington Post*.

We can only hope that the district leaders are open to these ideas and take decisive action to bring innovation and change to 4J schools.

Mark J. Van Ryzin
Eugene

RAINBOW CITY

I want to acknowledge the lovely landscaping and flowers on the "mall" in downtown Eugene, and the person(s) responsible for them. This summer, as well as today (9/17), I was wowed at the lively color schemes of the thoughtful flower arrangements in beds and hanging baskets. I can't remember the last time downtown looked so charming and appealing as it does now.

Along with the beautiful blooms on the mall, I also became aware of the quirky, colorful and well-kept shops and galleries, etc. Add to this the mosaic of lawyers, street kids, artists, police officers,

mommies with babies, punks, government officials, pets and wildlife, bus riders, business owners, lovers, college students, tourists, etc. all going about their day. I believe the combination of these diverse elements complement one another and are representative of our quirky, colorful city. The mixed bag of people, commerce and aesthetic forms a rainbow that is uniquely downtown Eugene, Oregon.

Jennifer Farina
Eugene

CROSSWALK OBLIVION

This is just to let everyone know that downtown Eugene is not safe. I just got hit (9/30) by an SUV in a crosswalk on Willamette. I had the walk light and he turned left into the crosswalk.

Our culture seems to have spawned a whole lot of people living in some kind of personal dream world, oblivious to everyone around them, always in a hurry, multi-tasking, dangerous.

From now on I'm not using any crosswalk that a car could turn into. For the future, I can only hope that peak oil and high gas prices force a lot of people off the road like the young man who hit me — and that next time he hits something more solid that will eliminate him from the gene pool.

Lynn Porter
Eugene

ICE AGE POLICIES

Hey, Art Robinson: I have received your letter asking for money. You assume that since I own a business and have a conservative voting record, I will support you.

Fact is, for first time ever, I'll vote for Democrat Peter DeFazio. Here's why.

Your websites say public education is tax-financed "socialism," that schools are "evil" dens of "child abuse" which produce kids who are "permanently retarded." You say public schools should be "abolished." Not even the Taliban go that far.

Worse, you fail to mention that you earn a living — not as a scientist — but

by hawking a cheap home-schooling program, and that the reduction or elimination of funding for public schools could put millions in your pocket.

In contrast, Peter DeFazio has provided more than \$319,000 from his personal after-tax salary to fund scholarships for students here. Moreover, DeFazio consistently votes against wasteful spending. And as a senior member of Congress, he has brought thousands of jobs to our district.

Art, you talk about taking America back to the 1950s. Your positions on education, global warming and nuclear waste will take us back to the Ice Age.

Steve McNamara
Eugene

EW DOESN'T KNOW SHINOLA

To those in the know (aka music fans), *EW*'s incompetence at covering local music is nothing new. As members of the local music community, we have learned that we must look to other sources (mainly word-of-mouth and online networking sites like Facebook) to find out what's going on in this town because we cannot rely on *EW* for accurate information. Unfortunately, many people look to the *Weekly* first to find out what's happening, and never really experience the vibrancy of the local music scene. Rick Levin reached an all-time literary low in his preview (8/26, "Fascinating Wankers") of The Budos Band at the WOW Hall.

"Too many horns create a traffic jam." In Beethoven's *Eroica symphony (No. 3 in E flat Major, Op. 55)*, which you cited as a shining example of instrumental music, there are no fewer than 13 horns. And in Miles Davis' *Sketches of Spain*, your other example, there are 21.

"Instrumental music is better when you have something else to focus on, like dancing, drugs or sex." So what you're saying is you don't listen to music.

Why would you have someone who clearly knows nothing about music write about music? We don't understand calling the Budos "wankers" in comparison to ... Steely Dan!? Ahem. Did you actually listen to any of their music?

Judging by the turnout at the WOW Hall, other Eugeneans, like us, have figured out that *EW* doesn't know shit about music.

Basin & Range
Mark Macomber, Johnny Schlea,
Dan Mahoney & Phil Allen

EASY TO FORGE

Add my kudos to Randy (Ellis) for 40 years on the force. But it was interesting to note that ALL of those who signed the 40th anniversary letter (full page ad, 10/30) did so with a signature that is extremely easy to forge. Ask any handwriting expert.

Frank Skipton
Springfield

BEST TEAM IS HERE

PeaceHealth's Board of Directors has approved moving several hundred hospital and clinic jobs to the Vancouver, Wash., area. Targeted areas include health improvement development, patient