

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

actions were taken. Or how about on the federal level of a recent president who started a war based on lies; why was he not impeached?

Wanting to hire assistants to help with a heavy workload and talking about how to make it happen doesn't seem worthy of an expensive and time consuming legal battle. It seems to me the people who should be ashamed are the ones who brought this whole issue up in the first place.

What an incredible distraction from the work they need to focus on in helping accommodate the needs of the citizens for now and the future. Follow the money to see why this was instigated in the first place. It won't take long to figure out their motives.

Thank you Commissioners Handy and Sorenson for all your great work for Lane County, and I am sorry you have been put through this fiasco.

Pamela Driscoll
Dexter

ONLY LAWYERS WIN

Regarding Judge Gillespie's opinion against Lane County Commissioners Rob Handy and Pete Sorenson on the Oregon Open Meetings Law: It's standard procedure; lose at the trial level, and win on appeal. And the lawyers get rich. Which is the primary purpose of our legal system. It doesn't accomplish anything else.

Frank Skipton
Springfield

THE FINAL TALLY

Well then, is this the final tally in the Dumdi/Seneca-Jones Timber Company lawsuit against the county?

1) Cost of 5 half-time administrative assistants: \$180,000; 2) cost of one jail bed: \$300,000; 3) cost of lawsuit: \$1,500,000 (\$300,000 so far to the county); 4) public meetings laws actually violated: 0.

So Dumdi/Seneca-Jones Timber have hypocritically stuck the county (i.e. the citizens of the county) with an unwarranted fat bill to gain less than half a jail bed. Oh, and by the way, possibly bankrupted two honorable men in the process. Nice job!

Ramona McCall
Eugene

SOLID VERDICT

Where did you get that Judge Gillespie's verdict has anything to do with two commissioners meeting circumventing Oregon's Public Open Meetings Law? I read three county commissioners and their three budget committee appointees, along with appointed representatives for certain county commissioners (i.e. Phyllis Barkhurst) meeting without public notification and out of the public view, with the clear intent to deliberate and reach decisions regarding the spending of the public's funds *before* they were supposed to in a *public session*. All with the admitted intent of circumventing Oregon's Open Meetings Law (the technical "quorum" defense?).

Did you actually read the verdict? I remember you asking once for me to provide you a transcript of a speech that you could have easily pulled off the internet yourself. Did you do the same with the Gillespie verdict? Rely on

someone else's interpretation? Oooh, an opinion based upon someone else's bad opinion. Bad journalism!

Gillespie's verdict is pretty solid. I doubt the state Supreme Court will overturn it. I also can't help but wonder if you would have been so defensive of their illegal action if the commissioners who were found guilty were named Stewart, Bozeivich and Leiken.

Chris Matson
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: We read it all, and we read that while they were not sued to begin with, Judge Gillespie named Commissioners Stewart and Dwyer as having participated in the "serial" email meetings as well.

A BAD JOKE

EW recently reported that *The Nation* magazine considers Mayor Piercy the country's most valuable local public official.

In 2007, Piercy voted for the Regional Transportation Plan highway expansions. She supports the new Seneca Sawmill forest incinerator even though it will increase deforestation and air pollution. Claims that Eugene is concerned about human rights did not result in public explanations of why police sheltered criminals on the force. Perhaps *EW* could investigate the sales job that resulted in *The Nation's* award, since it probably avoided these inconvenient truths.

Carbon credits for highway widening is a bad joke.

I first subscribed to *The Nation* in 1983. I found it useful for understanding the Reagan regime. They run some authors I like, notably Jeremy Scahill and Michael Klare. But I dropped my subscription during Bill Clinton's time since their partisanship ignored the crimes of the Democrats and worse, they attacked Oliver Stone's excellent film *JFK*.

Sorry that I don't trust "liberal" magazines who side with Allen Dulles and Gerald Ford in their promotion of the official story of the military coup of Nov. 22, 1963, even if some of their other views are good. See www.oilempire.us/the-nation.html for details.

I hope there will be at least one city in the U.S. that drops highway plans due to peak oil and climate chaos before gasoline rationing starts, but it probably won't be Eugene.

The writer Ed Abbey said "Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul."

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

EMX SUPPORT

I am writing in support of building the EmX in west Eugene. In 2001 the Eugene-Springfield community adopted a regional transportation plan and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) was selected as a key element of the plan. This plan was updated in 2004 and 2007 and today BRT, or EmX as our local system is called, remains a key to our transportation future. The EmX will provide accessible transportation, reduce green house gases and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. It will also encourage commercial and industrial development along its corridors.

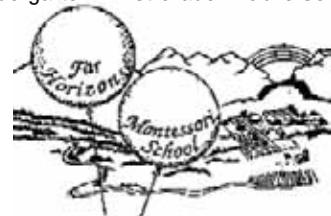
In the U.S., during the early 20th century when streetcars were introduced (including



EVERYONE LOVES
COSMIC PIZZA
8TH & CHARNELTON • 338-9333
OPEN DAILY • ORGANIC FOOD • PIZZA, SALADS,
SOUPS, WRAPS • BEER & WINE • INDULGENT DESSERTS
PRIVATE PARTIES • MUSIC • COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

Kindergarten? First Grade? Public School?



Consider our elementary program at Far Horizons for ages 5-12

Come to an informational day for parents
Tour classrooms • Meet teachers
Learn about Montessori elementary curriculum



Thursday, February 17 • 3-4pm
Far Horizons Montessori School
2490 Hilyard St, Eugene
541-485-0521 • fhms@efn.org

Heart & Sole

30% FOR FOOD 30% FOR FOOD SUPPORT FOOD SHARES

Saturday, February 12th
Footwise will **DONATE 30%** of day's profits to
Food For Lane County & Linn-Benton Food Share

FOOTWISE
SANDALS SHOES CLOGS BOOTS

181 E Broadway • Downtown Eugene • 541.342-6107
301 SW Madison • Downtown Corvallis • 541.757-0875
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5 • www.footwise.com

They're Here...
Certified Organic Seed Potatoes
18 Varieties to choose from!

Get an early start...
naturally!

- Organic vegetable starts
- Seeds & seed starting supplies
- Natural fertilizers
- Organic soil amendments
- Books, tools
- ...and so much more

DOWN TO EARTH
HOME, GARDEN & GIFT

532 Olive St. 541-342-6820
2498 Willamette St. 541-349-0556
Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5