

TAXING OTHERS

In response to Jerry Smith's letter (3/17) about school taxes, not everyone opposing this tax is rich, as his letter would imply. I certainly am not rich and believe in supporting the schools, but not this particular tax bill for a number of reasons:

First, it allows individuals to vote to tax others although they will be exempt from the tax if they are state retirees or earn under a certain income level.

Second, it does not make those who live outside the city limits pay anything although they have children in the school system.

Lastly, and most importantly, it is not written clearly enough to stipulate exactly how the money has to be spent.

If it passes I will have to pay although I currently pay over \$2,500 a year in property tax which helps to support the schools, although I have no children and never have had children in the school system (and don't tell me it was my choice to be childless because you don't know that to be the case).

I would support a tax only if the responsibility is shared because as so many have pointed out, the benefits are shared by all. I would also support it only if it were clearly defined as to exactly how the dollars were to be spent, and also if anyone who had a child in the school system would have to pay it as well.

*F.D. Ford
Eugene*

PICK ANOTHER SITE

As the UO and Oregon Research Institute jointly move forward with plans to build a private office building and parking lot on public lands next to the Willamette River, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon acted decisively to begin a student-led process of creating a new vision for the future of the university's riverfront property.

Using special funds, the ASUO recently granted \$56,000 to host lectures and workshops throughout the coming year, providing opportunities for students and the public to learn how communities around the world have protected and restored urban riverfront land and an opportunity to create a community vision for our valuable riverfront.

The grant will also allow faculty across disciplines to offer courses and sponsor research using the riverfront as a classroom. This could include gathering ecological data, writing projects, or preparing an economic impact study. Students are hopeful that these events and classes will provide the basis for a new vision for the riverfront once the current plan expires in 2012.

Unfortunately, the city of Eugene issued a building permit to allow construction of a parking lot for the proposed ORI building. If constructed, this building will foreclose on unique academic and recreational opportunities that students are seeking.

It is time to prioritize the education of students and the needs of the community by selecting another site for ORI.

*Zachary Stark-MacMillan
ASUO Student Senate President
Climate Justice League Co-Director*

THANKS, PHIL

From Duck hoops to Elton John to monster trucks to professional bull riding, the incredible Matt Knight Arena has something for everyone. Yes, even class-envying liberals who despise the "evil, filthy rich" people that made it happen. Thank you, Phil Knight and family.

*Don Richey
Eugene*

TECHNOLOGY'S MARCH

Japan, it is said, was well-prepared for the massive earthquake, but technology can only do so much to mitigate devastation. But it is the general march of technology that in fact greatly magnifies earthquakes' effects. Death is multiplied by big buildings, cars, mass transit and the overall dependence on modern systems.

Last week (3/10) Robert Simms' "Foot Power" letter advocated walking paths over whatever latest industrial transit plan is on offer, calling for the "energy and freedom of movement" of using our own feet. Speaking of energy, we know that techno-industrial life must be preserved at all costs. Whether it's nuclear power in Japan and elsewhere, or biofuels that that bring more pollution and starvation by growing energy rather than food, the priority is plain.

Preserve that which never should have been done in the first place — or undo it?

*John Zerzan
Eugene*

INSPIRING PROSE

I've known Mark Harris for 25 years as an activist, troubadour, philosopher and — with Cheri Turpin — our best (only?) historians who tell the sorry tale of race relations here in Joseph Lane's county.

If Clarice Smart (letters, 3/3) intends making a greater impact on our community than Mark, I look forward to that very much.

It's interesting to note that the best public forum made available to Mark and Cheri to present their cultural history of Eugene was Orval Etter's Pacifica Forum.

Mark's last *Weekly* column (2/17) — which seemed to have struck Clarice the wrong way — was, to my privileged white male point of view, the most inspirational prose I've read in any local publication.

I wonder where he got that wheelbarrow ...

*Fergus Mclean
Dexter*

WHERE WERE YOU?

Last Thursday, March 10, I had an opportunity to make a difference in my world. Around 6 pm, as I was driving on Coburg Road I noticed an older man struggling as he tried to get his walker/shopping cart up onto the curb. He had just crossed Coburg Road near Albertsons and was headed towards the bus stop. After I parked my car I walked back to make sure he was OK. He was sitting on the curb, his walker had tipped over and his groceries had fallen out of the bags. People just kept driving by!

As I helped him up, I noticed he had a huge bump on the side of his forehead from where he had fallen. He found his glasses but the frames were bent. As I stood steadying the man, another woman came to help, and a third woman stopped in the turning lane, offering to call 911. I

EMGE & WHYTE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Eugene D. Emge
Pam Whyte
Hilary Anthony
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
tax & accounting professionals
Support Eugene Opera, Symphony, & Ballet!
2505 W. 11th Ave • Eugene, OR 97402 • 485-2100

Børn
Fresh daffodils remind us that spring is here and so are the flower-topped flats from Børn.
Find Footwise Eugene on Facebook
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

Ordinary people. Extraordinary gifts.
You have known us for 50 years as Lane Memorial Blood Bank. Today, we are Lane Blood Center. Same Mission. New Name.
Call 541-484-9111 to schedule your life-saving donation.
2211 Willamette Street
www.laneblood.org/eugenemagazine
50 YEARS OF SUPPORT