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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

TWO GUYS STANDING ON AN INCLINE

WE ONLY INTERVENED IN LIBYA TO PREVENT A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER.

REGIME CHANGE IS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

ANYWAY, WE'RE JUST ONE PART OF THE NATO COALITION.

AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER IN DAYS, NOT WEEKS.

WELL, IT MIGHT TAKE A FEW WEEKS--BUT THERE WILL DEFINITELY NOT BE ANY AMERICAN BOOTS ON THE GROUND?

EXCEPT FOR THE CIA, WHICH HAS BEEN ON THE GROUND FROM THE START.

OH, AND OBAMA SAYS NATO MUST MAINTAIN OPERATIONS UNTIL GADDAFI IS OUT OF POWER.

SO I GUESS REGIME CHANGE IS SORT OF ON THE AGENDA AFTER ALL.

YOU KNOW, THIS INCLINE WE'RE STANDING ON DOESN'T SEEM TO PROVIDE MUCH TRACTION.

SOMETIMES INCLINES ARE LIKE THAT.

TOM TOMORROW @ 2011 ... www.thismodernworld.com ... twitter.com/tomtorrow

Letters TO THE EDITOR

YES ON SCHOOL TAX

Am I the only one astounded that the spokeswoman of the campaign against supplemental funding for Eugene's public schools sends her kids to private school? Or that the "no" campaign is managed by someone living in Yachats? Or that large chunks of their campaign funding come from local and out of state business interests, not individual Eugene voters?

The anti-school-funding crowd appears to care little about the quality of the public education our children receive. Otherwise, they wouldn't push a "just say no" position that would result in fewer school days, larger class sizes, and the layoffs of 100 or more of Eugene's dedicated teachers.

Instead, the opposition to adequate school funding seems to be waging a campaign built around their anti-tax, anti-public schools, anti-public employee ideology. To them, this isn't about our children, it's about the Tea Party's extremist ideological agenda to remake America in its imagined self-image. But the reality of that image is a lot closer to a feudal aristocracy than it is to a democracy envisioned by our Founders in 1776.

The foundation of our democracy is a strong public education system that produces informed, critically thinking citizens. Because I care about our democracy, because I care about public education, because I care about Eugene, and most of all because I care about our children, I will proudly vote "yes" on Measure 20-182.

Pete Mandrapa
Eugene

WE CAN DO BOTH

Apparently, YMCA members have been busy. When informed at a recent School Board meeting that the Y serves 7,000 members, Superintendent George Russell joked "and we've heard from every one of them." Yes, the Y does need a new home and, yes, the Civic Stadium site would be a great place for it, but the Y's proposed partnership with a developer would require demolishing the historic stadium and paving the field for apartment parking.

Do we really need to choose between a new Y and preservation of the stadium?

Absolutely not! We can (and should) have both. The Save Civic plan will rehabilitate the fundamentally sound grandstand to host professional soccer and community events. The stadium itself occupies only the portion of the site that, in the Y's plan, would contain the apartment buildings. There's plenty of room for a new Y and Civic Stadium, too — a great combination!

While so often it seems we need to choose between the lesser of two evils, in this case we have two great options and, even better, we have a chance to get both of them. A city of Eugene partnership with Save Civic Stadium would make that possible. If the School Board chooses the Y proposal we would get a new Y and an apartment complex. But the choice of Save Civic Stadium's plan could give us a beautiful (and historic) sports complex as well as a new Y.

Trey Imfeld
Eugene

FREDDY: TAXES & JOBS

As a senior citizen in the Crest Drive neighborhood, I was excited to hear of the possibility of a Fred Meyer occupying the old Civic Stadium site. Many of the senior citizens who live in the south hills area and prefer the Fred Meyer shopping experience are now commuting to its West 11th store. We could save money on fuel costs, drive less on city roads, and create a smaller carbon footprint (my average is two trips per week).

One of the Civic Stadium proposals would create a soccer and entertainment venue. We have a new entertainment venue at the Matthew Knight Arena — how many more do we need? And if the city wants to spend taxpayer money on a new soccer venue, it would be far less expensive to upgrade the existing soccer field at South Eugene High School (it's currently an artificial turf field, well illuminated, and parking is available — how about constructing new covered grandstands and restroom facilities).

Also, both the City Council and the school district need to be mindful and realize the benefit in perpetuity of the tax revenue created by a "for-profit" entity