

cannot wait until next year for the state to develop a new tax. This is really a small fee and progressive so those making more will pay more. An adjusted gross fee for joint filers of about \$30,000 pay nothing, \$50,000 pay \$120, \$100,000 pay \$529, and \$250,000 pay \$2,284. A small amount to save our schools and help our kids.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT

Let me make sure I have this right. The Eugene Y, a nonprofit organization traditionally associated with family and community recreation, is proposing to demolish our historic Civic Stadium,

which was built with public funds to be a recreational facility for the community, so that they can build housing for profit. Does that sound right to you?

Please let the mayor and City Council know that you want them to work with Save Civic Stadium in strengthening their proposal. And let the 4J Board know that the deciding factor in Civic Stadium's future should not be just the bottom line. It takes a healthy community to raise healthy kids, and healthy communities have public recreation centers like the one that could be developed at Civic Stadium.

Lonnie McCulloch
Eugene

A-GRADE WICKED

Anna Grace mentioned in her interview (4/7) with a cast member of *Wicked* that she was concerned about the quality of the production coming to Eugene, saying that "touring companies often have the reputation of B-grade actors." This concern is actually fairly new in theatrical history. Over the past 20 years, many Broadway producers have been sending out touring companies with non-union actors as a way to save money and increase profits. These non-union actors tend to be younger and less experienced than union actors. Compare the touring company of *The Wedding Singer* (non-union) to the touring company of *Spamalot* (union). I walked

out of *The Wedding Singer* at intermission — something I have only done two or three times in my life. Now I ask the Hult Center staff to tell me whether a show is union or not. Thankfully, *Wicked* is a union production, and if you check the cast list online, you will find most of the actors have Broadway and off-Broadway credits.

Non-union shows are laudable because they give newcomers a chance to perform, but please don't think you will be getting a Broadway-quality show. I would suggest using your entertainment dollars to support our local theaters rather than these non-union shows, and save your big bucks for the quality companies coming to town, like *Wicked*.



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