

• Eugene **mental health activist Lynne M. Silvi**, 48, drove her car through Portland's Waterfront Park wall and into the Willamette River early in the morning of Sept. 23. Silvi was open about her significant mental and emotional problems and was a passionate advocate for changing the mental health system. She felt like she was "deeply traumatized" by traditional systems of care, according to David Oaks, director of MindFreedom International in Eugene.

Silvi was very bright and highly communicative, and through her very personal and frank writings she gives us a unique look into the horrors and hope of a troubled mind, and the painful stigma of being labeled "mentally ill." She found a new home in the local MindFreedom community where "normal" is broadly defined. "MindFreedom feels like a reunion of family I never knew before," she writes. "This connection and encouragement gives me the courage to speak out. ... Today I am medication-free and psychiatrist-free for the first time." Find her writings, including her "Open Letter to My Mental Health Therapist" at [www.mindfreedom.org](http://www.mindfreedom.org)

• Meetings about the development plan for the **UO properties** in the Walnut Station mixed-use area (formerly the ODOT and Romania properties) shake out into more parking, not exactly a surprise, for the short-term. Some interesting ideas do bounce around for the Romania building, which has historic designation. Fairmount neighbor Karen Alvarado advocates for a grand art center including artists' studios, gallery space, etc., with ties to the UO School of Art, Architecture and Allied Arts, similar to art projects in reclaimed buildings near some California colleges. What about several movie theaters harking back to the day when a cinema thrived in that part of Eugene? What else?

• **Who doesn't love dogs?** Lane County commissioner candidate and current City Councilor Mike Clark, apparently. When City Councilor Betty Taylor (owner of a golden retriever named Lucy) brought up the idea of rescinding the old rule banning dogs on 13th Avenue near campus, Clark didn't just disagree, he suggested that the city extend the dog ban to downtown. Comments on EW's Facebook page about the proposed pup prohibition have been almost entirely against a ban, with at least one suggestion to ban Clark instead.

• "Stop bashing teachers" was our favorite advice from **Shelley Berman** when he spoke to the City Club of Eugene on Sept. 23. Working superintendent of 4J schools for only two months, he waded into one controversial area after another. Berman said the "vast majority of teachers are excellent" and that the best professional development is to put teachers working together to solve a problem. He cited Finland, now rated the best educational system in the world, as a country that started investing in the quality of teachers 30 years ago. Finland does no state testing of students, he added, giving a nod to the overdue dismantling of No Child Left Behind and its endless testing.

• What's going on down **on Wall Street?** Nothing, according to the mainstream media, but the European press and social media report the Wall Street protests (search for #occupywallstreet) are heating up. According to [occupywallstreet.org](http://occupywallstreet.org) the protest is a leaderless resistance movement made up of "the 99 percent that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1 percent" and is inspired by the Arab Spring tactic of mass occupation that brought change in Egypt and elsewhere.

Supporters, including Oregon's Cascade Climate Network, have sent pizzas to help feed the protesters. Noam Chomsky recently announced solidarity with the protesters, saying, "Anyone with eyes open knows that the gangsterism of Wall Street – financial institutions generally – has caused severe damage to the people of the United States (and the world)." From 200 to 1,500 protesters – the numbers fluctuate – have been camping out on Wall Street. Police officers pepper-sprayed activists last week causing a public outcry. At least 80 people have been arrested since the protest started Sept. 17.

*SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com)*

## LIGHTEN UP

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

As you listen to Tea Party candidates for president, it becomes obvious that their supporters don't believe in evolution.

throughout all local and state jurisdictions, from county commissions to city councils to special districts, as it relates to a locally elected official's abilities to gather information outside of a public meeting."

Barnhart tells *EW* he talked to Fleenor in August and agreed to consider "whatever proposal he might have," but also says, "This is a complex issue. It is critical that public business be done in public and it is important that public officials understand what they have to do to protect that public access."

Barnhart says changes in the Open Meetings Law "need to be considered very carefully and after full deliberation." He says "it is unlikely" that level of scrutiny could happen in the short session of the Legislature in February, but it could happen in the 2013 long session.

Fleenor sent Barnhart and the AG's office a list of changes he'd like to see go before the Legislature. They include "Any form of communication, discussion, conversation, dialogue, banter, debate, exchange of ideas, speech or discourse, either in person, electronically or otherwise, in a one-on-one, serial, consecutive, or sequential manner between members of a public body, shall be permitted except as otherwise provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.690."

His changes also deal with email correspondence and offer more precise definitions of words that are already in the statutes, such as "meeting," "deliberation," "decision," "executive session" and "governing body."

Meanwhile, the Lane County attorney's

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