

WE DESERVE BETTER

Since when does an ambiguous county law supersede the First Amendment? The hearings officer at the county has made his decision on the mining of Parvin Butte. I think that everyone in the Dexter/Lost Valley area is shocked!

The hearings officer gave all three decisions to the McDougals: the bridge permit, the raparian modification, and now repeal of all fines and no site review. I guess the Dexter/Lost Valley residents have no right to have any input as to what happens to their valley, their land value devaluation, the right not to have to listen to dynamite blasting at any time of day or night or the constant grinding of rock processing next to their homes. They have no right to complain about infrastructure degradation from heavy trucks or constant heavy truck traffic. They surely have no right to be upset about loud noises that will be heard inside their homes.

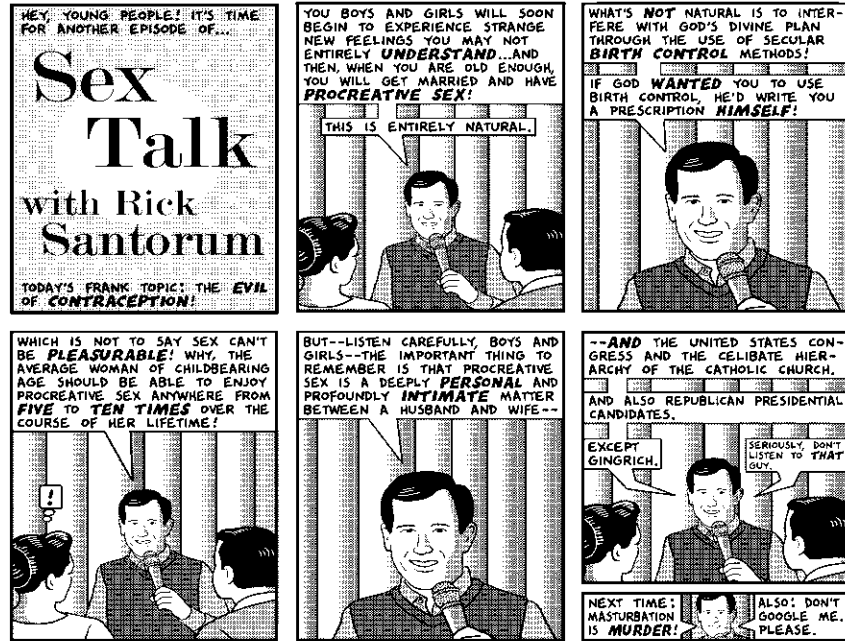
They do not have the right to try and protect endangered species that live in the adjacent stream that shares the quarry property even though ODFW biologists feel the quarry will harm the existing salmon.

I guess it will provide jobs for a small number of people but to heck with the hundreds of people who had the bad luck of saving their money from a lifetime of work so they could live in a tranquil area and retire in peace.

What happened to the First Amendment, the one where people have the right of free

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



speech, to have input on what happens to their lives, the people that pay their taxes, and play by the rules?

The Big Boys win again and again, smash the little people, disenfranchise them from their own neighborhoods for nothing more than greed.

The residents of Dexter deserve a say in how their community is destroyed!

Arlen Markus
Dexter

MONEY AND EMX

We all know that democracy is up for sale in this era of super PACs and the *Citizens United* ruling. That Brian Weaver's group has "purchased" the public opinion he crows about in his Feb. 16 letter "Democracy and EmX" is not surprising.

The grassroots group West EmX Yes started last October with a desire to allow neighbors and businesses along the route who wanted to speak out in favor of West EmX not to be shouted down by this

well-funded, pro-auto, anti-government group with an unlimited budget for illegal signs, a paid marketing company (Creative Advertising Services, LLC), paid Portland consultants (John Casey, Cascade Policy Institute) and paid newspaper ads.

Individuals chipped in \$20, \$50 and \$100 apiece to produce "West EmX Yes" bumper stickers. We made our buttons in someone's basement. The media noticed as many business owners along the route stood up in favor. We have a Facebook page and a Google group. Please join us! We are the majority! We're now giving out West EmX Yes "Bucks" as we support local businesses along the route.

The democratically elected City Council, county commissioners, MPC and the mayor will vote soon. A long public planning process said yes, West Eugene should be included in the regionwide EmX system.

With record LTD ridership and gas set to hit \$5 a gallon this summer, let's not let the well-funded few thwart what the majority of us want: a choice in transportation.

Tom Schneider
Eugene

STOLEN PROPERTY

Lane County's hearing official Gary Darnielle and Greg Demers and the McDougals have just taken my home right out from under me. I have worked and paid my property taxes for 22 years to only have the county steal this home from myself and my partner. There is just no way I can live with an active "mountain removal" mining

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THE POLITICS OF INEQUALITY

JACOB HACKER and PAUL PIERSON
the "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" of economics —Bill Moyers

Thursday, March 1
175 Knight Law Center
University of Oregon
4 p.m.

Jacob Hacker (Yale) and Paul Pierson (UC Berkeley) discuss their recent book, *Winner Take All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer—And Turned Its Back on the Middle Class*. Part of the *In the Shadows of the Great Recession: Recovery and Inequality* speaker series.

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