

**UNDERMINING CAHOOTS**

I'm not sure how many people realize what a complete and total disaster it will be for the people of Eugene and neighboring communities if Willamette Family Treatment Inc.'s Buckley Center "sobering station" shuts down; obviously, not enough people, or the service probably wouldn't be threatened with losing its funding to begin with (see Slant last week).

Eugene is constantly debating what to do about the "homeless problem"; or the problem with panhandlers downtown; or how the police could better be doing their job or using their resources; or what to do about the overuse, misuse and abuse of emergency department services and the fire department, etc. Out of these discussions, rarely, but occasionally, interesting and innovative ideas are implemented. The expansion of CAHOOTS services last year — making them available from 11 am to 3 am, with two vans in service during the peak hours of 3:30 pm to 10:30 pm — is one example of an approach to societal problems that is both economical and humanitarian.

One way to undermine the efforts of CAHOOTS, and to dramatically worsen the other problems mentioned, would be to allow Buckley's sobering station to close. No more sobering station means more intoxicated people sleeping, going to the bathroom, fighting and using (alcohol and other drugs) in public spaces or on private property (maybe yours); it means more people dying on the streets; it means more emergency room and jail beds used for people to "sleep it off," rather than being used for true medical patients or to contain criminals who pose a real threat to the public; it means more law enforcement and emergency medical staff tied up dealing with "drunks" and other addicts rather than responding to true emergencies.

Closing the sobering station due to a supposed funding crisis is absurd beyond words, because the cost of not having a

sobering station is so much greater, so absurd, in fact, I have a feeling it will not happen. I just don't think we are that stupid. Hopefully, this is not wishful thinking.

Thomas Perkins  
Eugene

**SOCCER FOR CIVIC**

It was very exciting to see last week's cover story [5/10] of the creation of a new soccer team in Eugene. This news reinforces the strategy of the Friends of Civic Stadium to repurpose our historic Civic Stadium as a multi-purpose facility, with a minor league soccer team as an anchor tenant.

By supporting the Eugene Azul, you will also be supporting the effort to save Civic Stadium. So if you want to show support for Civic Stadium while enjoying a competitive soccer game with your friends and neighbors, come to the game at South Eugene High School Friday evening, June 1. Let's show the 4J School Board and the community at large that both soccer and Civic Stadium have a strong future in Eugene.

Lonnie McCullough  
Eugene

**SOURCE OF DIRTY POLITICS**

Seriously ... Pat Farr?

Remember folks, dirty politics come from dirty politicians.

Rhonda Lindsten  
Eugene

**CRUEL & UNSPORTING**

It's admirable that Mike Martell is dedicated to stopping the cruel practice of trapping and snaring of Oregon black bears ["Un-bearable" news story, May 10]. As he rightly points out, government agents are killing hundreds of black bears, including nursing mothers and orphaned cubs, largely at the behest of the Oregon timber industry. The Humane Society of the United States will continue to work with like-minded citizens who wish to see an end to wildlife abuses such as snaring.

Bears may suffer severe injuries in

**THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



the frantic attempt to escape the snare. Trapped bears may languish for hours or days before the trapper finally arrives to kill the animal, especially in a state like Oregon with no time requirements to check traps after setting them. The voters of Oregon passed Measure 18 because they found the practice of baiting andounding of black bears to be unacceptably cruel and unsporting. Eliminating those methods of hunting certainly didn't slow the rate of bears being killed by sport hunters using traditional hunting methods. Rather, it proved that hunters can pursue bears without using extreme and unsporting tools like hounds or snares.

Thank you, *EW*, for covering wildlife issues like this one. Hopefully, wildlife managers will continue to adopt practices and policies that are more in line with the humane values of the overwhelming majority of Oregonians.

Scott Beckstead,  
Oregon senior state director,  
The Humane Society of the U.S.

**BUILDINGS & GRAVEL**

It was ironic that the article about whether to demolish City Hall came the week after the "Plea for Parvin Butte," protesting gravel mining. While gravel may not be high on our list of nonrenewable resources, it is widely used in the construction of virtually all roads and buildings and some nearby place has to get wrecked in order to produce it.

For the city of Eugene to consider demolishing City Hall — a building less than 50 years old — is yet another example of the same short-sighted lack of respect for materials, energy and future that has gone into countless flimsy, single-story strip malls, big boxes, burger joints and tract houses across the country.

I have told city staff for 15 years that any new construction along major transit corridors or at major intersections should be multi-story. Not only would such increased density improve the efficiency of public transit, but it would also add an intrinsic value to any building, reducing the pressure to nonchalantly demolish it 30 years later.

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