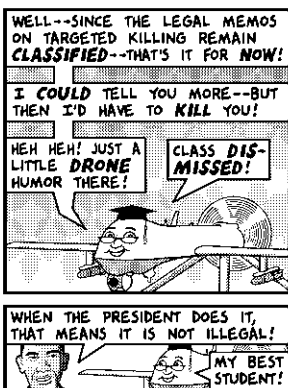
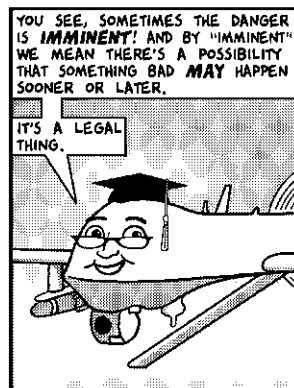
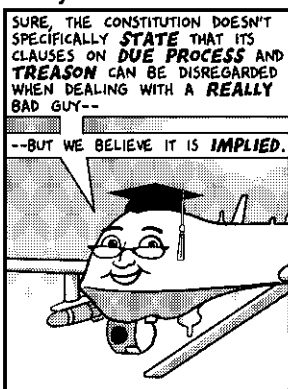
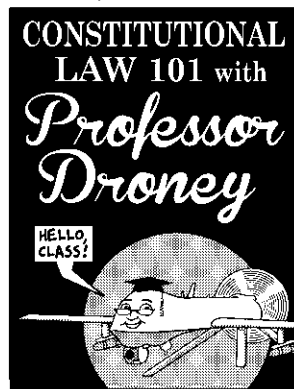


THIS MODERN WORLD



against the proposals floated by the mayor and council. It is just like Romney and Ryan's claim that they would close unidentified loopholes and tax breaks and identify unnamed spending cuts. She is as silent on actual solutions as the Republican congressional leadership is now.

The city of Eugene has a real \$6 million problem next year and into the future. She claims she knows where there is "waste, deadwood and too many giveaways." I'd like to hear specifics and what real services and programs she would cut to balance next year's budget. Real numbers and real impacts, please. Or what new revenue that has any chance of approval would she actually campaign for?

It's easy to complain about what's wrong. No one likes to pay more taxes. I'd be in favor of exempting any taxpayer who receives food stamps from the tax. Call me a tax-and-spend liberal. I like to live in a place where we have nice parks, recreation opportunities, library access, safe streets, assistance for our impoverished neighbors and thoughtful planning. To me, working for a better future is what "progressive" should be all about.

Richie Weinman
Eugene

MAD AT GOVERNMENT?

Bonny Bettman McCornack makes some excellent points in her column "Bailing Out City Hall" [2/7]. Maybe it's true the city has hired consultants to "survey residents and determine what services reliable voters cherish most. Then City Hall ties those favored services to the tracks, and says 'give us more money or else.'" Obviously, that's not a good arrangement.

What McCornack proposes is standing up to city bureaucrats by rejecting new taxes, as if that will have a positive outcome. Principally, I agree with her. I don't think there's any disagreement between us that the government is unfair, wasteful and corrupt. But who will suffer the most if the proposed tax measure is defeated: government bureaucrats, or low-level public employees and low-wage social service providers from the nonprofit sector?

Among the services that will be eliminated or reduced are programs of Looking Glass, White Bird Clinic and St. Vincent de Paul, as well as Mental Health Court, Buckley House and other programs largely for low-income and struggling members of our community. Are we to eliminate, or dramatically

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