

on active street corners. Most buildings in Eugene have corners that do not engage the surrounding public space. All future construction downtown should consider a building's corners and attempt to activate them.

3. Before revamping South Willamette, attention should be given to the short section of one-way traffic between 19th and 20th avenues. This one-way section serves no purpose and impedes northbound traffic. Please switch to two-directional traffic to conform with the rest of Willamette.

4. Someone has been stealing High Street signs near downtown. Probably college kids. Please change street name to something less inviting, like Hig Street or Purple Street.

Blake Andrews
Eugene

BOONDOGGLE

The Eugene School District is going to waste \$100,000 to teach principals how to teach the teachers. When I got my certificate in 1990 I was taught how to identify students' misunderstanding of the rules of mathematics. Teachers are required to continue their graduate education to maintain their license and pay for it. Why not apply the same requirement for principals and use the money to hire more teachers? Principals could even hire their own teachers to tutor them, thus keeping the money in the local community.

Vince Loving
Eugene

INVITATION TO ELAW

Living in the shadow of Parvin Butte, I found it ironic that Eugene is hosting the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide annual meeting and conferences [plus the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference this weekend]. This comes shortly after the folks in Dexter heard their latest appeal denied by the state. No county or state official has addressed the environmental, social and public health and safety issues involved in blasting and crushing a mountain into gravel in the middle of an established community, and within yards of Lost Creek, anadromous fish habitat.

Maybe if the delegates to the meetings get a little restless and want to take a field trip they could troop on out here to Dexter and take a look at our own unmitigated environmental debacle. We could certainly use some environmental heroes about now.

Phil Robbins
Dexter

RURAL WARZONE

Open letter to Peter DeFazio: Are you still a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA)? What is your position on gun control?

It has been three weeks since I emailed you and called your office. They assured me you would respond, but you have not yet done so.

Because I live in rural Lane County, I do suffer intrusions of gunfire on occasion. One day this summer a couple carloads of guys decided to share with us their "fun with guns." For the first time in my 25

years here, we became a warzone for semi-automatics.

Peter, I can assure you that not all rural residents love their guns and oppose strong gun controls. Local gun owners mainly shoot rifles on their own property. These guys were probably your very own Eugene/Springfield good ol' boys.

Jan Nelson
Crow

FAIR TAXING

The City Council and County Commission just voted to widen the gap even more between the rich and poor in our

community. A few hundred more dollars in charges for the thousands of neighbors living in poverty will be very difficult. A regressive flat tax, and that is what these city and county fees are, hurts too many.

The same \$120 annual city flat tax added to the \$100 plus more in new special county and city taxes will cause more foreclosures and more people on the street. I have had citizens tell me they had to move because of a \$10 monthly increase in rent. Don't the city and county elected representatives understand the unfairness of flat taxation where the poor and the rich have the same tax? I would encourage everyone to contact their representative

and educate them. I know our community needs more money and a fairer progressive tax that has citizens pay according to their ability to pay helps everyone.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



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