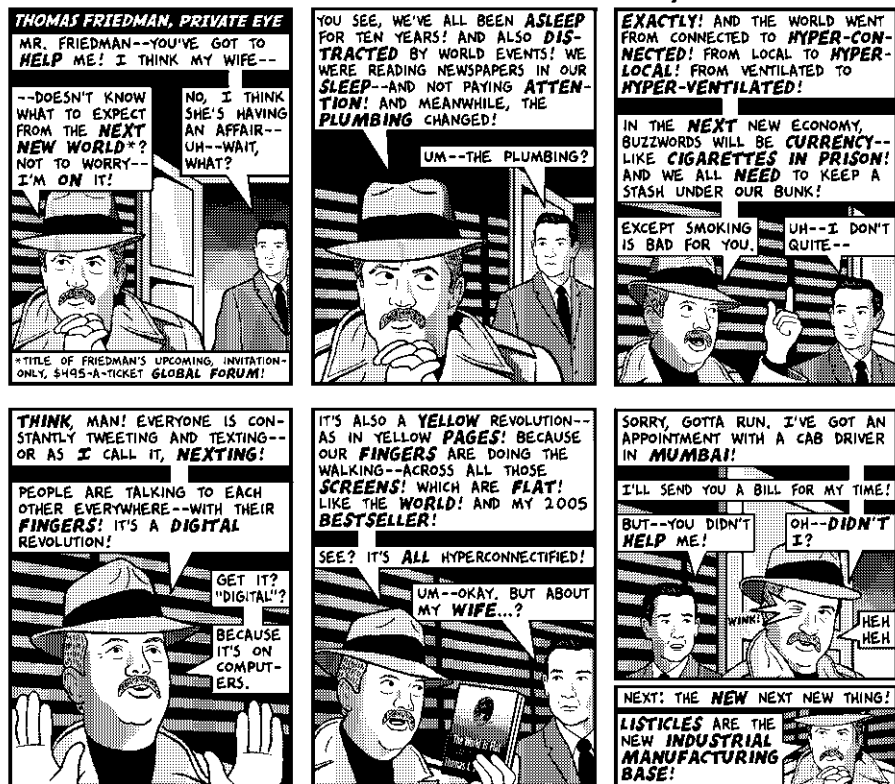


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



They are a blatantly naked attempt at political extortion. Not only do all Eugene voters want these essential services, they have already paid for them.

Nick Urhausen
Eugene

NO CONFIDENCE

I'm glad Robbie Cunningham [5/9] caught my reference to The Who's anthem, "Won't Get Fooled Again," in my "rabid" comments about the city head tax, aka "service fee." I also enjoyed Cunningham's riposte (seriously), especially his final plea to "try to d-dig what we all s-say."

This will be the first local revenue measure I've ever voted against. I could probably look past failings of the city once again and pony up if it weren't for the fact that a number of us have too clear an inside view of the toxic mix of incompetence and duplicity the city manager has created and the mayor has enabled.

First, city staff blatantly misled the City Council about the financial assessment of the Capstone project, about the presence of lead on the site, about the demolition risks, about statutory requirements for MUPTE approvals and land use actions, and numerous other important issues. In years of being involved with civic issues, during terms of both "conservative" and "liberal" mayors, and with a wide range of city managers, I've never seen such lack of integrity and a mayor so willing to cover for it.

Second, look at the recently posted list of jobs to be cut: fireman, Teen Court, neighborhood services, library, etc. Yet not even half an FTE out of the Planning and Development Department. A lot of time spent by the high-paid members of the Development Division is nothing more than promoting and running interference for developers to get tax breaks and other financial benefits.

The Planning Division has too many "long range" planners who are completely out of touch with reality or community values. I've worked at the "living room" level in neighborhoods all across Eugene, and the level of anger and frustration at the

wasteful (at best) and harmful (all too often) actions of this little "clique" is pervasive.

None of this will improve until the city manager (and mayor) are held accountable and, unfortunately, this latest deceptive and stupidly crafted measure has become the measure whereby citizens across the left-right spectrum can vote "no confidence."

Paul Conte
Eugene

MISLEADING CLAIMS

I've read and felt the need to correct a handful of several wildly inaccurate claims made recently by opponents of Measure 20-211, the Eugene city services fee. Among those fictional claims are that the fee will extend into perpetuity once instituted and that it is a "bait and switch" that will allow the money to raise revenue for expenditures revolving around some dark, ulterior motive. Despite their seeming discordance with reality, these talking points resonate with voters.

What ought to resonate with voters is the truth, and the voices of State Reps. Phil Barnhart, Val Hoyle, John Lively, Paul Holvey and Nancy Nathanson. What ought to resonate are the voices of State Sens. Lee Beyer, Chris Edwards and Floyd Prozanski, and the voices of AFSCME Local 1724, IAFF Local 851 and SEIU Local 503, OPEU.

Any voter who reads the measure will find the following language:

"Five years after the effective date of the fee, the City Council shall conduct a review of the city service fee to determine whether the fee should be revised or terminated," and "Revenues shall be limited to (a) paying for fire and police service, homeless and human services, and quality of life services such as libraries and pools, (b) establishing reserves for these purposes, and (c) the billing, collection and administration of the city service fee ... The city service fee shall not be used to pay for any other function of the city."

Every political campaign has those who use spooky language as a means of distracting people from the truth. This campaign is no different, as opponents of

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