

THROW AWAY CIVIC?

In an earthquake Eugene's Civic Stadium will be the last building standing. It is built on a solid foundation held up with huge, clear-grained old-growth timbers.

Our education system is slipping away: higher dropout rates, larger classroom sizes and underpaid teachers. Momentary cash infusions have not solved the problem.

By tearing down Civic and building a new Fred Meyer shopping center we are sending money back East to big corporations and their CEOs. We will be unwittingly widening the gap between the rich and middle class. We will be throwing away rich educational opportunities: open spaces, soccer fields and a historic stadium. Building a shopping center will not strengthen our local educational foundation, only weaken it.

Joe R. Blakely
Eugene

HUTS NOT ENABLING

In the recent letter "No More To Give" [10/17] Jessica Hannah writes about her neighbor who wants to move into a "homeless hut" so he can continue living a self-destructive lifestyle. Your neighbor wouldn't last very long as a hut resident due to agreements with host sites that restrict the use of drugs and alcohol in the huts. Several people have been evicted for these reasons already.

We (Community Supported Shelters) are careful not to become another handout that continues to enable unproductive

behavior. We recently submitted a camp proposal to the city of Eugene that includes involvement in local community as a requirement of staying in the camp.

I challenge people who share Jessica's concerns to get involved with our organization (www.communitysupportedshelters.org) and meet the people we are serving in the community. It would be an eye-opening experience for you.

Erik de Buhr
Designer/builder of the
Conestoga Huts

POOR CAN'T GIVE MORE

An unpopular yet realistic fact with the upper class situation is that many of these folks have come about their circumstances through crime and immoral choices. Many, not all. Some were born rich.

Our tolerance and gullibility and budgets are at meltdown levels. We have reached our capacity for being able to give any more. There is no more room for mansions and no more money that can be squeezed out of the poor. We have given all we can give.

We have given and given: tax breaks and subsidies for mansions, vacation homes, private jets, yachts, country club memberships, private schools, degrees not earned but bestowed by Harvard, Yale, Princeton.

And what do the rich give to the people who support them? Arrests for public sleeping, for disturbing the peace by existing.

The rich demand our respect but give us none. We, the citizens of this city and county, housed and unhoused, are trampled under the boots and stilettos of the uber-rich. We are arrested for walking or standing on our own streets and sidewalks, while the rich run us down with impunity.

Jessica, yes, there is a Satan [Letters, 10/17]. He is all of you who think you are better than everyone else. He is you who lecture the poor on gratitude, while you crush them under your heel. We don't ask anything of you, except this: Quit whining!

Ann M. Tattersall
Eugene

KIDS LIKE FRESH FOOD

After reading Karl Stout's response [10/17] to Megan Kemple's Viewpoint [10/10], I implore him to volunteer with Farm to School and find out for himself how much kids actually "raise their noses to healthier choices" before making such pessimistic assumptions.

It is the sad truth that many children are raised eating processed foods loaded with refined sugars, additives and preservatives as a result of the industrial food system. However, being a volunteer with Farm to School, I've personally witnessed the joy and delight of the kids when they get an opportunity to try a new fruit or vegetable. At a school tasting table last week, where we bring fresh produce for kids to try during lunch hours, we nearly ran out as they gobbled down seconds, thirds and even fourths of local apples and pears. One

second grader even exclaimed, "This is the best fruit we've had at school all year!"

The amazing staff and volunteers at Farm to School work hard and effectively to make local, fresh fruits and vegetables more accessible to kids and their families. If you are angry or disgusted with the current food paradigm, please take time to volunteer with one of the many organizations in Lane County working to change this system before fouling the air with baseless cynicism and negativity.

Alison Erdmann
Eugene

RIVER ROAD OPPORTUNITY

Jan Spencer's "Downtown River Road" article was refreshing and informative. The mural on the side of the Goodwill building provides such a wonderful sense of healthy neighborhood life. It was great to hear its history and details. Kudos to the owners of the Goodwill building for wanting to work with the community to find business renters who would add life and vitality to the River Road area. Although I understand there is a lot of hard work and advocacy between now and then, I hope something wonderful comes of it all.

I do have one correction to make to the article. Mr. Spencer says that "local residents would love a natural food store" and a number of other businesses, including a bike shop. I want to point out that in River Road we already have our own local bike shop. Klink Cycles is located on the corner of River Road and

VIEWPOINT

BY GARY CRUM

Redacted Evidence

BOZIEVICH'S ROLE REMAINS IN QUESTION

I've been having a month-long email conversation with West Lane Commissioner Jay Bozievich regarding the termination of former county administrator Liane Richardson, the role she alleges he played in the activities leading to her firing and the now famous 29-plus pages of redaction of the Olson Report, which was the basis for the Richardson termination. May I share some information and some opinions based on that email conversation?

First, I have asserted and continue to believe that most, if not all, of the redacted materials could be released with no threat to county employee "whistle-blowers." In my opinion, those redactions only protect the commissioner Richardson alleges colluded with her regarding her conversion of deferred income to "regular" salary. I've contended, from the start of our conversation, that the honorable course for Bozievich was, first, to acknowledge he was, indeed, the accused commissioner and then convince the commissioners to release those redacted materials without jeopardizing the anonymity of any county employees. He replied it was not possible to do so, that even the identity of the accused commissioner was necessarily redacted to protect those whistleblowers.

He invited me to appeal through the court system for the release of the material, knowing, of course, that I lack the financial resources for such action. His first tact was simple: He denied any involvement in "suggesting Ms. Richardson violate policy." He contended that those redacted pages of information, testimony and evidence would support his denials, but steadfastly supported the redaction of the very heart of the Olson Report. He stated he would sacrifice public perception of his

integrity rather than expose those whistleblowers to reprisal. He said his support of redaction was altruistic, not self-serving.

When the "heat" of public opinion regarding the redactions and his alleged involvement reached a critical level, Bozievich "went public" with a self-serving op-ed in *The Register-Guard* wherein he finally acknowledged he was, indeed, the commissioner accused by Richardson, and presented testimony and evidence he felt supported his innocence.

When I challenged him for selectively releasing materials included in the redacted portions of the Olson Report, he countered that he had the information "outside" the report and his comments, therefore, did not violate the law regarding release of redacted materials. He added that he had run the op-ed piece by County Counsel Stephen Dingle, who approved the piece as not violating state law.

I suggested to Bozievich that his position was less than honorable, and a more accurate statement would be: *I have "outside" sources for information included in the redactions that supports my innocence, but, sorry, we can't release information included in the redactions which might support Ms. Richardson's allegations. Such action might endanger county employees. I have found a way to release information favorable to me, while finding a way to withhold any information which might harm me.* He didn't find my suggested statement particularly amusing.

I continue to assert that most (likely all) of those 29 pages of redaction could be released without jeopardizing the anonymity of, or threatening the employment or welfare of, any county employees. I assert that that information may, however, reflect badly, likely very badly, on Bozievich. I readily admit I don't know that this is the case. I do know that the best way to put this matter to rest and "move on" is to release those redacted materials and publicly address the veracity of Richardson's allegations.

If Bozievich is as innocent as he professes, I will gladly give him a public apology. If, on the other hand, Richardson's allegations are supported, I will ask for Bozievich's resignation.

Gary Crum of Junction City is a retired teacher and counselor who worked with dysfunctional adolescents over a 28-year career in public schools, probation facilities and residential treatment facilities.