

**PULLING PLUG ON ESD**

It is so shockingly disheartening that 4J has turned its back on Lane County's children by withdrawing from the Education Service District. The philosophy that makes ESD functional, by supplying important educational services, is based on all players playing. When the biggest district pulls the plug on essential services that benefit all of Lane County's students, the system suffers irreparable damage. Due to its size, 4J doesn't think they need the ESD, but many of our smaller school districts rely on crucial ESD services that they can't afford on their own.

Kudos to Springfield and Bethel for being team players. Only advocating for your own, 4J, will ultimately bring us all down.

*Michelle Holman  
Deadwood*

**EVERYONE'S CONCERN**

We often hear that "hungry people are not the government's concern." But as FOOD for Lane County executive director Beverlee Hughes has explained, these are our neighbors, our classmates, our coworkers, and the average food stamp allocation is just \$130 per person per month. The recent cut in food stamps will lower the monthly food assistance to more than 811,000 Oregonians, including 181,334 school-age students.

Yes, the number requesting food stamps is growing! Yes, food is becoming more expensive! For the world's richest country to now take the food out of the mouths of our low-income neighbors is unthinkable but it has really happened. Tell our representatives in Congress we want

cuts restored. Remember, too, that FOOD for Lane County needs our support more than ever!

*Ruth Duemler  
Eugene*

**WE ARE ALL NATIVES**

While I agreed with most of the points made in Kayla Godowa Tufti's column [10/31] on the UO, I felt that she missed a good opportunity to educate others due to her incorrect approach. She wrote, "Let's not be naïve and convince ourselves that the same sexist, racist, oppressive, colonist institution that is responsible for the mockery and marginalization of our disenfranchised communities gives a damn about us." This statement makes a generalization about the UO community that is overly pessimistic and leads to a closure of communication between the two parties. The statement creates an enemy where there need not be one. Has there been a history of racism, sexism and colonialism in Oregon? Yes, obviously. But to make things better you have to reach out to others and educate them in a way that doesn't first throw mud in their faces.

There is a unity underlying all human beings that can be tapped into and used wisely. We are all natives of somewhere. We have all been disenfranchised in some way. I don't say this to lessen your individual story; I tell you this so that you can use it to unify people, so that the work of healing can begin. When you see yourself as others, and others see themselves as you, then we can make some progress as a human race.

*F. Scott Zarnegar  
Saginaw*

**RESPONSE FROM UO**

We write to address and apologize for our failure to acknowledge the source of the Halloween letter Kayla Godowa Tufti mentions in her "She Who Watches" column Oct. 31, "Fake Apologies, False Hope."

As supervisors of University of Oregon's Bias Response Team, we work with numerous students, one of whom recommended that a letter be sent out to UO students like the "respectful Halloween" letter that had been sent out at the University of Minnesota.

We did not know the letter had been taken verbatim by our student from the Minnesota letter. We recognize that we should have inquired more directly of the student before adding the names of Vice President Robin Holmes and Yvette Alex-Assensoh to what was presented as a draft letter for them to sign if they liked it.

We take plagiarism very seriously at the UO and acknowledge our failure to prevent it in this situation. We have reached out to the original writers of the letter and apologized for our failure to source their work.

We will use this as an opportunity to support our students in their learning process and will emphasize the importance of upholding the highest academic and administrative standards in our work.

*Chicora Martin  
UO Assistant Dean of Students  
Maure Smith-Benanti  
UO Assistant Director of LGBTESSP*

**MORE FEMALE BOOKERS**

The cover article last week [10/31] cites Mac Goodwin of Oak Street Speakeasy as the lone female booker in Eugene.

No disrespect to Mac and the impressive amount of work she does, but I call bullshit. I have been booking shows in Eugene for almost two years now under the title of Behavior Castle. Katie Stavasano has been setting up shows with Small Howl for several years, hosting heaps of rad ladies, women and girls of every genre almost weekly. I'm sure there are other ladies booking, too.

I grew up in Eugene and in the past few years, I was frustrated at the lack of bands I wanted to see playing here. I also grew up attending Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls in Portland, and after that, hosting *The Girls Room* radio show on KWVA for five years. More than anyone, I wanted to see actual up close and personal, live and in the flesh girls playing music. I also wanted loud rock 'n' roll, not the singer-songwriter stuff that I enjoy quietly at home alone.

Instead of complaining, I started to set up my own shows with the help of my boyfriend, Sammy. Lots of bands want to play in Eugene, and our little operation has been growing with every event. The author claims there are few female bands playing in Eugene. In the past year, we've hosted three rad bands containing all-female members. Almost every one of our shows has had at least one girl in one of the bands. Just because a show isn't billed as a "girl band" doesn't mean there aren't ladies rocking it.

You may not see these shows listed in the R-G, so how do you find out about them? Check your neighborhood phone pole, House of Records or even the bulletin board at your friendly downtown grocery store, and you'll find a flier. Follow the blogs of people you like in town, the

**VIEWPOINT** BY EBEN FODOR

# The Civic Solution

## GROWING SOUTH EUGENE NEEDS MORE PARK FACILITIES

**T**here seems to be an excellent option for the 10-acre Civic Stadium property: Use it to help expand the city of Eugene's park system.

We have witnessed unprecedented residential development in the greater south Eugene area with an astonishing number of new multifamily and student housing units springing up. This pace of construction is resulting in a rapidly expanding local population. Unfortunately, public facilities and services are failing to keep up.

To accommodate all this new growth without compromising the quality of urban services for existing residents, the city needs to be providing more facilities. To maintain our park standards, the more residential construction we have, the more parkland we need. When a city fails to keep up with growth, services and quality of life suffer.

Eugene collects a development impact fee for parks that is

supposed to expand the system as we grow. The city collected a record \$2.5 million in park impact fees last year. However the central and south Eugene area that has seen the most growth has had little investment in new parks. Instead, the funds have been expended mostly in Santa Clara and Golden Gardens.

Our recreational facilities already look overburdened and lack maintenance. Amazon Pool has huge lines. Spencer Butte has become a "highway" of hikers on nice days and a slip-and-slide the rest of the year. City tennis courts are so cracked and battered one has to weigh the joys of playing tennis with the risks of a sprained ankle.

There is an immediate opportunity to help address the need for parkland and recreational facilities by acquiring the Civic Stadium site. If the School District were to offer to return this property to the city at cost, rather than trying to profit from it, the site could be purchased with last year's park impact fees. The public supports this transfer, based on a recent survey (see Slant, 10/31). And there is little support for any commercial development at this site.

The city might look at creating an all-season, multiple-use recreation facility geared toward promoting the health and fitness of local residents of all ages. Perhaps the city could team up with the Y to help meet the community's needs.

In terms of coping with growth impacts, it's clear that Springfield's Willamalane Park & Recreation District has done a great job of expanding parkland and providing new facilities. Maybe Eugene needs an independent parks district, too, that would focus more attention and resources on our parks and recreation facilities and act quickly when there are opportunities like the Civic Stadium site.

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