

• **Emerge Oregon** has been recruiting and training women to run for public office for five years now. The May Primary had 14 EmERGE alumnae running for positions around the state, including Dawn Lesley's challenge to unseat Jay Bozievich in the West Lane commission race, a race so close it's still undecided. Sheri Moore, who ran against Sid Leiken in the Springfield commission race, is another grad, along with Rep. Val Hoyle. "Running for elected office takes courage," reads a statement from the EmERGE Oregon Board of Directors last week following the election. "We are so proud of all our EmERGE sisters who took that leap of faith and put their names forward to help make Oregon a better place for all of us and our families." See emergeor.org to support the organization and its alumnae.

• "College is the time when everyone experiences those things such as sex and fun and pleasure," **mass murderer Elliot Rodgers** said in a YouTube video before he killed six people and injured seven more in Santa Barbara, Calif., this past weekend. He continues, "but in those years I've had to rot in loneliness, it's not fair ... I don't know why you girls aren't attracted to me but I will punish you all for it." In the wake of the killings, people will search for answers — mental illness or disgraceful gun laws that allowed Rodgers to buy three weapons. We are reminded of something as we read Rodgers' manifesto in the light of the recent UO rape allegations: Misogynist killings and rape aren't just the work of a single sick person; they are the work of a society and ideology that sees women as property or prizes to claim. Rape culture doesn't just target women; it targets trans people and men as well. We need to not only fix our legal and health care and gun control systems, we need to fix the ideologies that allow mass killings to happen again and again.

• The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce leadership claims **mandated sick leave** for employees in Eugene is bad for business and threatens our "fragile" economic recovery, but the Chamber doesn't calculate the financial gains from building a more stable and humane workforce. Staff turnover is expensive. Forcing sick workers and those with sick dependents to take unpaid leave or be fired sends a message to workers that they are not valued. And any policies that lead to low morale, low productivity and a workplace rife with contagion are counterproductive when it comes to retaining solid, productive employees.

• Profound sadness and anger. That's what we felt after watching Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* on HBO on Sunday, May 25. The tragedy of our country's unwillingness to acknowledge the AIDS epidemic and to do something about it was brilliantly portrayed in the film adapted from the 1985 screen play by Larry Kramer. We also learned that activism only works if it is fierce and truly active. The importance of recent rulings on same-sex marriage rang clear near the end of the film, both because of legal safeguards for same-sex couples and for the affirmation by the society of their place in this country. Somehow, see *The Normal Heart* if you possibly can. The film continues to be shown on HBO. Watch the trailer at wkly.ws/1ri.

• **Is OSU more green than UO?** The annual analysis of U.S. colleges by *Princeton Review* ranked OSU high for environment, but not UO. OSU spends 36 percent of its food budget on local/organic food; UO spends 7 percent. OSU requires 32 percent of its students to take a course related to sustainability, UO only 5 percent. The list goes on. But Princeton doesn't quantify the value of environmental and sustainability programs at either university. What value do we put on the UO's Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, the Sustainable Cities Initiative or the Oregon Leadership in Sustainability grad program? How about OSU's 10 acres of solar facilities or its pledge to build within its existing boundary to keep the campus compact? (UO is also trying not to sprawl but owns a lot of undeveloped real estate within its boundary.)

Individual profs can also have a big impact. Environmental science professor Jane Lubchenco, for example, has inspired a generation of young scientists at OSU and has gone on to distinguish herself (and OSU) nationally as chief of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and even at a Vatican conference on climate change this month.

WTF?

Reader John Bergland sent us this photo of a sign on South Shasta Loop a few blocks off Spring Boulevard in what he calls "the ritzy part of the southeast hills."



SLANT INCLUDES SHORT OPINION PIECES, OBSERVATIONS AND RUMOR-CHASING NOTES COMPILED BY THE EWSTAFF. HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS LATELY? CONTACT TED TAYLOR AT 484-0519, EDITOR@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

LINZEY RETURNS AMID GMO FIGHT

The current fight against GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in Lane County is one small battle in a larger war, according to Thomas Linzey, the executive director of the legal nonprofit group the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

Jackson County in southeast Oregon banned GMOs in last week's election, despite \$1 million in outside money to defeat the bill and another anti-GMO measure passed in Josephine County as well. However the Josephine ban is in limbo because during a special legislative session dealing with the public retirement system last year Gov. John Kitzhaber signed a bill into law that limits the ability of local governments and to ban specific farming practices, such as planting GMOs. Jackson County's ban was exempt because the measure had already qualified for the ballot.

Here in the Willamette Valley, residents in Benton County are already circulating signatures to get a measure on the ballot. The fight to get a GMO ban on the ballot in Lane County is still being held in limbo due to legalities on ballot language. Linzey says he is confident that Support Local Food Rights will be able to get the fight against GMOs to the ballot for either this year or the next election.

Benton and Lane counties are among the 160 municipalities that CELDF has aided with free legal advice. CELDF has been helping put forward "new systems of laws to prevent GMOs and unsustainable food practices." However, the overarching goal for Linzey and others at CELDF is much larger.

"It's a bigger fight than that," Linzey says. "And that fight is whose rights are going to trump whose. It's all been us on the defense and not on the offense, and that's where we lose."

Linzey will talk about the many ways that "the last 40 years of environmental activism has been crap," including how the counties have been rendered incapable of governing themselves. The chance to reclaim that governance, says Linzey, starts with asserting the right to say no to GMOs at the county level.

Linzey will be speaking on "We the People Rising Up: Rejecting Corporate Control One Community at a Time" at 7:30 pm June 4 at The Shedd. Free, but \$10 suggested donation. For more information, email info@orcommunityrights.org. — Kevin Sullivan

GLOBAL WARMING PROFITEERING

Oregon is "the hub, for whatever reason, of the for-profit fire industry," writes journalist and South Eugene High School grad McKenzie Funk in his book *Windfall: The Booming Business of Global Warming* (Penguin Press, 2014, \$27.95). Funk writes not simply of how we are preparing for a warmer planet, but rather he focuses on those who see the melt, drought and deluge of climate change as a market opportunity. Funk will speak at 6 pm Thursday, June 5, at the Eugene Public Library, free.

According to the most recent National Climate Assessment that came out earlier in May, Pacific Northwest forests are already feeling the effects of the 1.3-degree temperature increase from 1895 to 2011 that has hit this area.

The report says that global sea levels have risen about 8 inches since 1880 and are projected to rise 1-4 feet by 2100.

Funk writes of how climate change alters the geopolitical map: "melting glaciers around the Matterhorn had shifted a border in place since 1861 — it followed a ridge of snow that was no longer there — causing Italy and Switzerland to sit down and start negotiating a new one." In Kashmir, he writes, experts worry "the accelerating melt of the Siachen Glacier would further provoke the India-Pakistan fight."

What sounds like a disaster to planners, farmers, millions of predicted climate refugees and all of us who will be affected by drought, heat and flooding sounds like a gold mine to some major companies, according to Funk. Rather than tell the twice-told tale of how climate change is a disaster overtaking our planet, Funk, son of David Funk of marketing agency bell + funk, tells of the big business of climate change and of those who profit and grow from someone else's crisis — from Oregon's burgeoning industry of private firefighters for hire to Israeli snowmakers and Dutch sellers of seawall technology.

Writers and journalists struggle over how to call attention to the dangers the Earth faces from global warming and demonstrate that we need to change our ways. *Windfall* does just that while simultaneously showing that climate change and how we deal with it — or don't — is deeply intertwined with who controls the wealth of the planet. — Camilla Mortensen

