

GETTING FUNNIER

It used to be that “Red Meat” was the funniest part of the *Weekly*. Then you started printing people’s hissy-fit letters regarding your cover images and other portions of your publication! Man, it’s hilarious what some people get uppity about.

Brandon Butchko
Eugene

COUNTY GETS IN THE WAY

Support Local Food Rights is working to put the Local Food System Ordinance before Lane County voters to protect our rights to grow/distribute food free from GMO contamination and to save seed free from patents. Unfortunately, our own local government is hampering our efforts at direct democracy.

Last year, after our first filing, Andy Clark, assistant county counsel, said: “If there’s a doubt (about whether a measure meets the single-subject rule), it’s better to err on the side of putting the measure in front of the voters.” Support Local Food Rights couldn’t agree more.

However, Clark has since departed from his position. Following a ruling by Judge Charles Carlson that our ordinance didn’t comply with the pre-election requirements, the county has now rejected three revisions that specifically address the judge’s objections and county concerns. Instead of promoting a cooperative relationship, the county has identified a new objection with each filing.

We believe this action demonstrates that the county is unwilling to ensure the right of the people to engage the initiative process. It adds to the public’s growing understanding that communities are denied recourse when corporate interests are at stake — in this case, protecting local farmers and something as basic as the food we eat.

We must exercise our right to pass our own laws because the system that is supposed to protect us does not. This is not surprising in light of corporate political donations and lobbying groups like ALEC that drafted the seed preemption law (SB 863) passed by the Oregon Legislature last fall.

We contend that the ordinance does comply, especially given significant changes addressing the judge’s ruling, and have filed a challenge to the Clerk’s determination. Support Local Food Rights will continue to advocate for the right of the community — not corporations — to decide the future of our food system.

Michelle Holman
Deadwood

FACE THIN RESTORES THE FOREST

I’m writing in response to Dick Shearer’s June 19 letter regarding the Face Thin Timber Sale near Westfir, Ore. I’m a retired Forest Service forester who helped plan this project.

The only correct statement in Mr. Shearer’s letter was that this project was planned under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Shearer states, “All the 60-100 year-old second-growth Douglas fir along the byway will be gone” and that two casualties of this sale will be cool shade and clean water. First of all, the

byway stretches 60 miles and this project only encompasses the first 3 miles. Second of all, as stated in its name, it is a thinning operation and will leave 70 of the largest, healthiest trees per acre. Thirdly, there is a 170-foot protection buffer along the North Fork River. A large portion of this sale is being yarded by helicopter, which reduces soil erosion and the need for temporary road construction.

The treatments under way will put the area on a path toward restoration to conditions that existed prior to the era of intensive logging practices: a more fire-resilient forest with wider-spaced, larger trees. This outcome is the intent of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

Eric Ornberg
Westfir

BOWL OF DICKS

Our community was divided when the University of Oregon decided to enact its own gun-toting police department to rough up young college students and increase the criminalization of youth by arresting and charging students for what would have previously been dealt with by the university disciplinary process. The civil rights organization I founded, the Civil Liberties Defense Center, has defended many UO students and has attempted to ensure that police officers with the power to legally kill humans remain accountable to the law and our community.

And so when I recently read the court documents filed by a UO Police Department whistleblower against former EPD officer turned UOPD Chief Carolyn McDermid and UO Officers Lebrecht, Kent Abbot, Michael Drake, Adam Lillengreen, Eric LeRoy and Sgt. Bechdolt, I was pretty disgusted to find that the UOPD has been keeping a “Bowl of Dicks List.”

Apparently the graveyard shift commander would regularly lead a discussion and compile a list of people and entities that the officers disliked and thought should “eat a bowl of dicks.” I was even more appalled to find my own name and organization listed on this sexist, racist, pathological, unprofessional list — even if I was in good company with the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Judge Ann Aiken and Mayor Kitty Piercy, to name just a few.

Are these sworn officers that intimidated by empowered women that their ultimate revenge would be to have us eat a bowl of penises? (They obviously don’t know I’m a vegan). The fact that these cops actually wrote this list down and repeatedly discussed it openly really demonstrates that they believed they could operate with impunity and abuse the power that we the people place in our law enforcement officers. As taxpayers, doesn’t it make you feel good that our public servants apparently have so much free time while protecting and serving that they can come up with a hate list of women and people of color?

The UO Police Department must immediately terminate these unethical fools and the DPSST (Oregon police licensing authority) should revoke their ability to ever be police officers again.

Lauren Regan
Eugene

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