

A ONE-TIME GIFT

Regarding City Hall, it's important to understand that steel and concrete are inevitably desirable building materials because they are so structural. Unfortunately, they are also very energy intensive to produce. Therefore, from a standpoint of green building (to say nothing of climate change), concrete and steel should only be used as a last resort and only in the context of extreme building longevity during which the embodied energy costs can "amortize out" over time.

In other words, you don't build a concrete and steel building and then nonchalantly tear it down 50 years later because it's not new and pretty any more.

If indeed the city of Eugene chooses to demolish City Hall, whatever is built in its place should be built to last a long time — not just for the reasons cited above, but because in another 50 years the fossil fuels will be gone and there is nothing on the horizon that is going to replace them in the way we've been using them. The fossil fuels, so central to our construction practices and way of life generally, have been a one-time gift that we're squandering shamelessly. An unnecessary and financially dubious demolition of City Hall would be a case in point.

Robert Bolman
Eugene

DOING WHAT'S BEST

It is interesting to see the enormous amount of "public participation" it takes to even slow down a tiny, tiny, tiny group of politicians and bureaucrats. Reminds me of the parking lot next to the river. But remember the politicians and bureaucrats are going to do what "is best for the community." Eugene will have a new City Hall.

Frank Skipton
Eugene

DO WE HAVE A PROBLEM?

I would like to thank the folks that came up with the "Best DUI Lawyer" category on the Best of Eugene ballot. As soon as I saw it, I said "Fuck yeah!" to myself. Why? Because to me, I see a sarcastic, passive-aggressive way of letting Eugene know that we might have a drinking problem. We have breweries everywhere and we can also make money off of our consumption. Fuck yeah, *Eugene Weekly*, for reminding us about our current position.

And I say all this under assumption — I just don't understand how some fellow *Weekly* readers are getting upset by it. Do you guys really think that *EW* is endorsing drinking and driving? Wow. OK. You guys have the power to think so, so kill me, but I am just trying to open some eyes, which is what I think the *Weekly* was trying to do — raising awareness.

James Spoor
Eugene

TRASHING OUR BIOME

David Nickles is my personal hero of the summer for reporting the dumping of fireworks sand and waste by the city of Eugene to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality [News story, 9/18].

Richard Zucker showed a profound lack of judgment and understanding of

THIS MODERN WORLD



the fragility of the natural environment. Perchlorate and other hormone disruptors are not to be taken lightly. We ought not to govern the health of our bodies and land by way of state regulations, but by an understanding that health is best maintained when we keep our ecosystems free of unhealthy, foreign agents.

Our land and bodies have taken a severe beating over decades of poor environmental and food health practices. Because of that, many people are vulnerable to small doses of chemicals. We also need to respect that the health of the environment and people are influenced by the vast community of microbes (the microbiome) that surrounds us.

We are still learning what a healthy microbiome looks like, but until we do, let's do what we can to keep our land and body's ecosystems as pristine as possible.

Reid Kimball
Eugene

BETTER VEAL

Last week's letter [9/11] urging people to boycott restaurants that serve veal assumes the worst. Yes, we *all* condemn factory farms that use inhumane and unhealthy methods to produce food. But free-range chickens and grass-fed, pasture-raised beef/veal *are* humane and healthy.

Restaurants that buy veal from growers who feed their cattle grass and graze them in pasture are sustaining the environment as well as producing a type of meat that is highly priced by chefs and enjoyed internationally. We enjoy baby lambs so why not baby cows? Look on the menu and note listings such as Mazzi's Northwest Free Range Veal Marsala, which comes from Northern Lights Christmas Tree Farms in Pleasant Hill.

We should patronize restaurants that feature locally raised, environmentally sustainable, organic, humanely harvested foods and hope that their success influences other restaurants and other growers.

Vincenza Scarpaci
Eugene

A BETTER PATH TO PEACE

I am horrified that our president and our government are launching us into more military campaigns. Will it ever end? The response is more terror and more hatred. While killing and displacing millions, we contribute to the destruction of our precious planet. Weapons industries profit hugely, while human needs are sacrificed. Just look at our annual federal budget.

The International Day of Peace is coming up. How can we "celebrate peace" as we enter a period of unlimited military mobilization? Yet we must say "NO!" to war, to the militarization of police, to our national culture of violence.

Nonviolence offers an alternative path from the one our society is currently on. We can remember the examples from Gandhi's India and the civil rights movement in the U.S. Both required deep trainings that exposed many people to the philosophical roots and skills of nonviolence. The imaginative actions, risk taking and the sufferings to which people were exposed moved hearts and broadened support.

We have held many vigorous demonstrations for peace, and I hope we will continue. But as a movement, I believe we must move beyond that into expressions that rise more deeply from nonviolent philosophy. Let's keep going!

Peg Morton
Eugene

VET CAMP SUPPORT

Regarding the veterans camp off the Northwest Expressway: Even though some of us are working at minimum wage they have taken away a percentage of our food stamps. Though we try to share and pull things together we are always running dangerously low and out of food.

God's people never have to beg for food; this I believe. He's faithful and always brings something, although it may be days apart.

I see it as, "You have not because you ask not." So I will write on everyone's behalf. We could really use items like milk,

boxed dry cereals and sodas — things with a longer shelf life. Hot dogs and buns, Polish-style dogs.

It would be a great blessing if some of the fast-food chains could drop off some of their leftover food that might get tossed out, like McDonald's, pizza parlors, maybe some upscale restaurants. These could be used as tax write-offs, I assume.

Canned good are always a good staple item, but leftover Kentucky Fried Chicken sounds pretty sweet now that it's cooling off in the evenings.

With your imagination combined with ours and our efforts and hard work, no one here at this veterans site should go hungry. All will be greatly appreciated and none of this food will go to waste. Thank you for your warm hearts and generosity.

P.S. If people would stop driving past our camp at late hours and honking we would be more rested for work the next day. And perhaps stop yelling, "Get a job, you bums" all hours of the day and night. It would help with some of our self-esteem.

Ron Smith
Eugene

A BIG IMPROVEMENT

After having carefully read Measure 91, which would regulate, tax and legalize marijuana, I think that it merits serious consideration. I am very troubled that we have cited and jailed so many people for marijuana for minor infractions. People of color are particularly singled out.

According to an Aug. 14 *Oregonian* article by Noelle Crombie, 7 percent of all arrests in Oregon are for simple marijuana possession; the laws about marijuana are vague and inconsistent. Many of our young adults now have a record that makes it hard for them to get jobs, housing or student loans. How does that benefit society?

Also, the "crime" of marijuana is taking up the financial and personnel resources of police at a time when there are violent crimes to worry about. How does that make sense?

Measure 91 is a tight, thorough, well-crafted law with the right restrictions. A very positive aspect of Measure 91 is that a portion of the tax revenue that is generated will go toward treatment, prevention and mental health programs, as opposed to having money flow to gangs and cartels.

I urge voters to carefully review Measure 91. Know what it does: regulate, tax and legalize marijuana. It is a far better approach to what we have now. Treating marijuana as a crime has failed, at substantial cost to society. I'll vote for the new approach.

Zenia Liebman
Junction City

DISTRICT 11 CHOICE

Andy Petersen, a rancher from Camp Creek, offers District 11 voters a choice in state representative.

New to politics yet a veteran public servant, Petersen is committed to hearing all sides of any issue; he will not be swayed by special interest groups. Petersen has life experience managing natural resources and knows we can find solutions to feed our growing population, provide safe and nutritious food for our children and bolster those among us who are "food-insecure."