

**CORPORATE MODEL LACKING**

The university is not a business! Despite what Chuck Lillis says, his role at the university is to preside over the board of trustees of a "semi-public" institution of higher learning, not be a corporate CEO of the UO.

His push for efficiency, highly valued in the corporate world, is not as valuable in a university setting where "thorough and deliberative pace ... cooperative, consultive, dialogue-heavy shared governance process ... [is] deeply cherished" (R-G, 12/12). The academic world is not Wall Street.

Also, union busting, an activity held in high esteem in the corporate world, is inappropriate in the academic setting. I find it highly coincidental that the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF), in existence for over 30 years at the UO, is forced out on strike for the first time as the university is changing from a public to a semi-private institution overseen by a board dominated by business interests and wealthy individuals.

The same corporate education model pushed in public schools that values competition (Race to the Top), high-stakes standardized testing (Smarter Balanced Assessment), privatization, charter schools, etc., is on the move at the university level.

The goal of lowering corporate taxes, shifting the cost of education from the state to students (student debt) and cashing in on public education dollars is well under way. The drama at UO is only in the first act.

*Pete Mandrapa  
Eugene*

**IN DEFENSE OF LTD**

Marianna Cathryn Glenday ("Unwarranted Praise," 12/11), I am sorry that you had bad experiences on LTD, but I must speak up for LTD drivers.

I ride the bus several times a week with many different drivers, and I have observed them to be unfailingly courteous and helpful to passengers who need assistance. When a driver could not accommodate a wheelchair passenger because the wheelchair bays were full, she apologized profusely. Never have I seen a driver pass by a waiting passenger.

I commend LTD drivers for doing their jobs with a dedication to public service.

*Bonnie Koenig  
Eugene*

**ON WAGE THEFT**

Thanks so much to EW and Associate Editor Camilla Mortensen for the Nov. 13 cover story "Wage Theft." It brought back a lot of old memories, because as a young kid I wasn't paid for work I did and turned in my boss for failure to pay. I was fired for asserting my rights. It's part of the reason I became a lawyer and a commissioner.

While it is true that most employers pay their employees — both the full amount due and on time — there are some that don't. When workers complain about wage theft, they are frequently threatened with retaliation.

My hat is off to organizations like the Northwest Workers' Justice Project and to the lawyers who represent workers who haven't been paid. I especially appreciated

the comments of Eugene attorney Alan Leiman. He pointed out that workers at a fast food restaurant in Eugene regularly worked more than 40 hours a week but were never paid overtime. I am glad that we have lawyers willing to represent unpaid workers.

Efforts to curb class action litigation are a threat to workers all over this country. As Eugene attorney Drew Johnson pointed out, class action suits occur when a group of people sue on behalf of a larger group of people in an effort to create change.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to Vancouver, Washington, lawyer David Schuck who points out to his wage theft clients that he must tell clients that they will likely be subject to retaliation if they pursue a wage claim.

Thanks for this excellent article and for shining a light on wage theft. When people do a job, they should be paid.

*Pete Sorenson  
Lane County commissioner  
Eugene*

who give thanks for having known them.  
*George Beres  
Eugene*

**POSITIVE ACTIONS**

Last week's [12/4] two stories, "Good God," on the contributions of two local pastors to helping the distressed and homeless were inspired journalism. Hats off to writer Anna V. Smith for her insightful portrayal of pastors Dan Bryant and Brent Was. It's very encouraging to see the Weekly report the positive actions of these two leaders of the faith community in helping care for those in need.

As Smith writes, "In the Kingdom of God, there are pancakes, sausages and scrambled eggs aplenty." I like living in a place like this.

*John Kline  
Eugene*

**WHO TO TRUST AT EPUD**

What could the "Gang of Three" possibly be planning for the next upheaval of the EPUD board? The last fiasco revealing phone conversations served no purpose other than to expose how really low they will stoop. EPUD deserves better than that.

Imagine being an EPUD employee right now: Their morale must be at an all-time low, knowing that one of their own spent countless hours (probably on company time) undermining the general manager and a longtime board member. What could be their motive? How and who asked them to do it, and what was his or her motive? A

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