

THOSE NAKED BONES

As I stand grieving, again, before the ever-so-sad spectacle of the naked bones of the City Hall building, I have to agree with Otto Poticha's memorializing statement in his March 5 Viewpoint, "Standing Naked," urging "everyone to go and view the City Hall frame, give it a second look and imagine what we could or still can achieve. Please join me in seeking management and decision makers with a deeper and more profound vision the next time we go to the polls."

I'd love to be able to agree that we still can achieve something truly forward-looking, rather than the glitzy glass box that will serve virtually no purpose other than housing a few city officials — whilst we pay over \$1 million a year into the unforeseeable future to local landlords to house the real agencies that service this town. Is this truly the best this city can do, with an award-winning UO architecture department only blocks away that could design numerous alternative solutions as student projects?

How much more parks maintenance and other city services (such as the community garden's manager position now cut by half) will end up being cut to enable this monstrosity, which the citizen's committee voted against?

The naked bones await only vision and action on the part of we citizens. The old City Hall stands awaiting truly forward and sustainable thinking! I say, let's change the current paradigm and make a real reconstruction happen!

Robert Thompson
Eugene

UNSUNG HEROES

Congratulations of course to the Eugene Civic Alliance, the city of Eugene and School District 4J for the impending transfer of Civic Stadium land to the Eugene Civic Alliance, literally insuring the preservation and renovation of the stadium for public use. Yet let us not forget the small group of unsung heroes who through their vision, commitment, optimism and dedication in the face of

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



ridicule and derision, made this victory possible.

Signature gathering and grassroots organizing to save Civic began as early as 2006, gaining nonprofit status in 2008 as "Save Civic" and transitioning to Friends of Civic Stadium (FOCS) in 2012. Often criticized and written off as overly nostalgic Ems fans and unrealistic dreamers, Friends remained undeterred. FOCS continued to grow, meet weekly, form alliances, garner public support, eventually creating a plan with the City of Eugene to purchase Civic and establishing an escrow account for fundraising. In the process, Civic Stadium was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, soccer was introduced as the future for Civic and the sturdy old WPA-era stadium remained standing and out of the hands of private developers.

From those of us who believed in your vision, thank you Friends of Civic for the countless hours, energy, money, boundless

optimism and strength of vision you so generously gave to this community. We will not forget you, dedicated Friends, and what you made possible.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Meade

Rebecca La Mothe
Eugene

BAD GRAVEL LEGISLATION

Missing from Tony Corcoran's flock of legislative turkeys (Hot Air Society, 2/26) is the fattest one of them all: his good friend Rep. Val Hoyle's HB 2666.

As Karen Reed called out in a recent *Register-Guard* column, "HB 2666 would make it harder for farmers to fight proposed gravel mines and easier for gravel companies to get approval." The bill "would make it harder to demonstrate that discharges (such as dust, noise, flooding

and groundwater) from the mine would damage farming, and it would shrink the impact zone around a mine where conflicts with adjacent farms must be considered." The legislation would also shrink the mining traffic impact zone to a meaningless level and, adding insult to injury, "would not allow counties to place conditions of approval on mines, unless the conditions would cost the gravel company nothing."

A high percentage of farm soil in Lane County and throughout the Willamette Valley has already been lost to gravel mining and urban sprawl. What we have left must be protected for food production and security. Instead, unconscionably, HB 2666 aims to weaken protections of Class I and II soils.

Farming can produce both crops and jobs perpetually. Mining is a short-term endeavor that irreversibly destroys farmland and its communities. As compensation for her sponsoring HB 2666, Hoyle's political future should be short-term as well.

Because, like Hoyle and the former governor, Corcoran is a labor Democrat and environmentally myopic, it's not surprising that he fails to see their fowl play.

Robert Emmons
Fall Creek

TESTING VS. FUNDING

EW reporter Amy Schneider did an excellent job in making the very complex issue of high-stakes, standardized testing easier to understand. The intricate web of federal, state and local requirements make it hard for anyone to comprehend.

What we know is this: Over the past 20 years, there are more tests, costing more money, taking up more time, squeezing out more creative curriculum and becoming more punitive to students, schools, teachers and parents. The "new improved" tests always promise to deliver what the "old" tests didn't: a magic improvement in education to make up for the decades-old defunding of public education.

When I began teaching middle school in the 1980s, my average class size was 23.