

Eugene. Many of us on the current board feel the council took great strides forward in helping the city meet the preservation goals advanced by the board with the advocacy of Eugene Civic Alliance purchasing Civic Stadium. Civic Stadium is a positive example of a local, historic resource that will continue to provide a positive and meaningful service within our community. It is for this reason that we are so grateful for your partnership and financial support in preserving Civic Stadium for use by the Eugene Civic Alliance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the historic preservation of our community.

Heather Kliever, Chair, Historic Review Board
Eugene

FOOD YES, CIGS NO

I advocate for the homeless and I have no problem with the kids on the downtown mall. Terra Williams' claim [Letters, 6/4] that the smoking ban is a form of classism might be very valid, but I have to cry "bullshit" on the bit about the reason for smoking is because they are hungry. Yes, cigarettes may be an appetite suppressant, but I know what cigarettes cost, including the generic ones, and that money could be going for food instead. It gripes me to see people standing on a corner begging for

money with cigarettes in their mouths. I'll happily give you money for food, but not to support your smoking addiction.

Cenya Eichengreen
Eugene

GREENHILL HELPS, SERVES

As volunteers for Greenhill Humane Society, we feel we can best directly help the largest number of homeless dogs in our community. We have been Greenhill volunteers for over three years and together total over 10,000 hours. We see the daily routines of the dog kennels at both the Greenhill Road and 1st Avenue locations. This includes the feeding, kennel cleaning, yard breaks, walks, medical attention and training. We know firsthand how good the care is, despite the outdated buildings and limited budgets.

We have worked with Greenhill dogs that were adopted out in one day and some that were in the shelter for over a year before finding their forever homes. Whether the dog is a puppy or an abandoned and blind 13-year-old, they get the care they deserve in a safe environment with caring staff and volunteers.

We work with wonderful dogs and many good people, people who are motivated by being on the front lines of the shelter world and are proud of it. We support and appreciate each other and the

hard-working staffs, often in stressful conditions. The camaraderie is real. Since July 1, 2012, over 1,200 dogs have been adopted from GH and over 700 adopted from 1st Avenue. Over 1,600 dogs were returned to their owners from 1st Avenue. This is a record that speaks for itself, and Greenhill Humane Society deserves our support.

Brodie Washburn
Kristen Kaminski
Eugene

MORE THAN A MISTAKE

Memorial Day has once again passed without truth telling about American wars of the last half-century beginning in Vietnam. Our political ideology and its press stenographers remain awash as always in euphemisms including decriminalization of our state atrocities. As presidential aspirants gather at the starting gate, they are stumbling over themselves to disavow previous support of the Iraq War as simply a "mistake."

It is a tragic, well-known and too oft-repeated reality that the casualties of war vastly exceed those killed directly by bombing, shelling and bullets. In 2006, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health conducted a careful epidemiologic study in Iraq using cluster sampling methodology and in-person interviews conducted by

Arabic-speaking physicians, with over 90 percent confirmed by death certificates. Peer-reviewed and reported in the British medical journal *Lancet*, it reported some 655,000 Iraqi deaths exceeding pre-invasion rates.

In Fallujah, we committed unspeakable atrocities, mass murdering residents with flesh-melting white phosphorous and destroying 36,000 homes, 9,000 shops, 60 schools and 65 mosques. One correspondent wrote, "There has been nothing like the attack on Fallujah since the Nazi ... shelling and bombing of Warsaw in September 1939, the terror bombing of Rotterdam in May 1940."

As later repeated in Libya, we wantonly destroyed an orderly, secular, modern socialist society with advanced public services such as free universal, high-level education and health care, leaving enraged survivors who now make up the core of ISIS.

The Nuremberg Tribunal defined waging aggressive war as "the supreme international crime," for which German and Japanese leaders were tried and many executed at Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials. Ours was far more than a "mistake."

Jack Dresser, Ph.D.
Co-director, Al-Nakba Awareness Project

HOT AIR SOCIETY BY TONY CORCORAN

Behind Enemy Lines

SALEM SESSION MORE FOGGY THAN SMOKY

This first week of retirement has been pretty uneventful so far ... except for my new top-secret assignment from Gov. Kate Brown. But more about that later.

Speaking of retirement, this current Legislature apparently pulled the same stunt I just did recently. They retired *a year ago* and didn't tell anybody at the Capitol until the end of May! I've been checking politicians lately for a blood pressure, but there's not even a pulse. There aren't even *rumors* in the building of an increase in education funding, or a transportation/infrastructure package, or a rainy day sequestering of unexpected revenue for future PERS costs brought on by the latest Oregon Supreme Court ruling and its effect on future biennial budgets. Nada! Zilch!

You have to give the Democrats credit where credit is due. The leadership of Tina Kotek and Peter Courtney in the House and Senate, the gains by Oregon women to control decisions regarding their reproductive rights, the new background checks on firearms, doubling the statute of limitations in rape cases, the thoughtful, careful work of the Ways and Means chairs, Richard Devlin and Peter Buckley — all should be recognized as successes. As should Brown's support of these measures.

The failure to bring Republicans along in any meaningful way was, to say the least, predictable. The fact that Dems gave the GOP an excuse by their mishandling of the carbon tax measure doesn't really matter. The Republicans have no answers. So, if it wasn't the carbon tax as an excuse, it would have been

guns, or gays or taxes, or split-lane motorcycle-passing suicide waivers.

As for the Republicans, I do have to give them credit for consistency. Their caucuses have held together quite well — with the result that nothing has happened in terms of partisan cooperation on any of the remaining issues. Republicans continue to use the recycled whine of the past 10 years: Democrats treat us *so disrespectfully* that we can't, *with all due respect*, agree to anything remotely reasonable. It sucks to be in the minority, but the least you can do is have a message. "No!" is not a message. You can't, for example, pretend you support additional school funding without a plan. You can't demand additional PERS reforms without a plan. The R's continue to be hostages of their own right wing.

So here's the plan: I've been quietly drafted by Gov. Brown to surreptitiously gain access to the House Republican Minority Office and the Senate Republican Minority Office and scare their leaders into encouraging their caucus to actually cast a helpful vote. (I've sworn all nine readers of this column to secrecy. This is a volunteer mission because I'm retired, but there's a lot at stake.) Knowing that some of 'em might still recognize me from the old days, I went to my former Chief of Special Farces, the Crank, and we devised a very cheap plan.

Turns out this guy from Bellingham, Washington, has a whale-watching business, and he advertises with a huge metal orca float in local parades. The float is actually registered as a boat, with a cockpit, a motor and everything. As you may know, the Port of Astoria

recently hired this orca float/boat to harass pesky sea lions on its docks. Results varied, according to witnesses. The outboard motor flooded, literally, and the "boat" capsized.

But according to an Astoria official, the sea lions "got deathly silent" when they got a momentary glimpse of the beast and the result was that on Friday, June 5, the day after the orca's attempted swim, the number of sea lions on the docks in Astoria dropped from roughly 1,200 to 200. Anyway, the guy's not using the orca currently, so we've shipped it to Salem. Mum's the word on when we launch. I hope we don't get any PETA protesters. I'll keep you posted.

Nasty rumors in Portland recently that the true believers are launching a recall petition against Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Apparently the metrosexual avant-garde lefties are mad at Blumenauer because Portland failed this year to make a famous international list of the 20 most bike-friendly cities on the planet! Gasp. The only American city named: Minne-freakin-apolis, Minnesota; seriously, whose weather features 11 months of snow and one month of hard sledding? But I agree: Blumenauer, with his goofy bowtie, his goofy neon bicycle lapel pin and the "Sustainability" tattoo on his forehead, should be banished from the political world for this insufficiency. Keep Portland weird, dammit! ■

Tony Corcoran of Cottage Grove is a freshly retired state worker and former state senator.

