

## DONE WITH HIDING

The fencing of places where homeless people camp isn't really about trash. If it was, the city would be providing trashcans and portable potties at locations all over Eugene, along with a lot more managed shelter. Instead it spends money on services that people have to walk to, carrying all of their possessions, and policing to keep them from camping.

What the fences are really about is trying to force the homeless to hide, to be invisible, so their very existence doesn't offend the middle class and give the lie to the American way of life. The talk about trash is meant to justify this and demonize the homeless — to portray them as trash.

As activists, we need to understand the difference between protest and resistance. Protest is useful in focusing public attention on a problem, but it doesn't make those in power do anything. Protest may, in fact, provide a useful social safety valve for people to vent while allowing the politicians and the middle-class folks who elect them to continue business as usual. Resistance, on the other hand, creates a cost for business-as-usual that makes it more difficult to continue doing it. It inflicts pain and is much harder to ignore.

As a resistance response to the fencing, I

suggest that activists publicly designate the fenced areas as dumps for homeless trash and feces, and encourage the homeless to use them to deposit their waste. Create a real problem that the authorities cannot ignore, a cost to business as usual. Tell the community that we are done with hiding and we don't recognize their authority.

Lynn Porter  
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eugene Weekly does not condone pooping as a form of protest.

## HONEST AND RESPECTFUL

As a children's advocate for many years, I am 100-percent supporting Lucy Vinis for mayor. She has a very impressive track record in children and youth issues, and she founded Youth Visions, a nonprofit film festival for high school students. In addition, Vinis has a background in business, social services, agriculture and environmental issues. She is incredibly well-rounded, smart and committed to Eugene.

I have seen her out in the community, and she is a great listener to all points of view. But she also will tell it to you straight, and not just what you may want to hear. In other words, Lucy is honest and very respectful — which is very refreshing.

I also have been unhappy with Mike Clark's opposition to important city services, including being the only city councilor to oppose the improvements to the library. Lucy Vinis is much more civic-minded. She will make a great mayor.

Joy Marshall  
Eugene

## TAKING THE LOW ROAD

The editor of EW's March 17 front-page attack on Mike Clark is indicative of what is wrong with the U.S. and especially Eugene politics today: the lack of civil public discourse with others who may not agree with your point of view. Clark was apparently correct in his decision to not meet with you, as the article makes it clear your goal was to impinge his character, not enlighten the public.

Clark has represented my ward for 10 years and I have always found him thoughtful in his considerations of issues, respectful in his word choice and dedicated to public service. Clark is also one of the rarest in public service. He is a self-employed small businessman and does not have the luxury of being retired or drawing a salary and benefits from a public entity like every other councilor and the mayor.

If one also considers EW's prior attack

on Springfield's nightlife and citizens it is easy to conclude the editors have a certain lack of respect for their fellow man. As editor you are certainly allowed to continue on the low road you have chosen, but I would hope the majority of your subscribers have better character, and I am sure your mother taught you better.

Bob Macherione  
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our cover headline "Don't Let a Loser Win" did not indicate who the "loser" might be. We left that judgment call to our readers after studying the mayoral profiles.

## SEMPLER IS SOLID

I am really excited to see that Emily Semple will be running for Eugene City Council in Ward 1. I have been concerned about how Eugene will balance development with anticipated growth. I am very impressed with some of the positions and ideas that she has put forward.

The issue of a potential expansion of the urban growth boundary [UGB] has always been controversial. Semple has made a very good point that we need to be even more cautious about possible expansions of the UGB because climate change has made the farmland surrounding our urban areas even more valuable as resources.

## HOT AIR SOCIETY BY TONY CORCORAN

## Of Laws and Lawlessness

PONDERING OREGON'S WOLVES &amp; TERRORISTS

**W**olf update: Gov. Kate Brown signed HB 4040 into law on March 15. Opponents of the original de-listing (and this bill) believed the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) previously broke the law when it removed state endangered species protections from gray wolves; so they sued. They contend de-listing was premature and not supported by independent scientific review: bad science, bad bill. That case against de-listing is currently before the Oregon Court of Appeals (COA). But special interests, the cattlemen and the farm bureau successfully lobbied the Oregon Legislature last month to moot the case currently before the COA. I spoke with Amoroq Weiss, a biologist and attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity and Sean Stevens, executive director of Oregon Wild, two of the parties appealing the de-listing. Both verified the governor's role in writing the final bill, despite her staff's testimony in mid-February that she was "neutral." Both agreed that while the case technically remains open before the COA, the friends of wolves might have just been handed a setback. Stay tuned.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge update: A month ago a stranger introduced herself to me in a local grocery store; she wanted to tell me her story. She had retired to Eugene after a long career as a Head Start teacher on the Burns Paiute reservation in Harney County. She expressed her deep concern regarding the welfare and protection of the Paiute tribal records, artifacts and historic sites cataloged and maintained at the refuge by various federal agencies. So it was heartbreaking last week to read *The Oregonian's* headline tragically confirming her concern: "Occupier who feds say dug trench for feces, disturbed sacred artifacts faces charges."

After the armed occupation ended Feb. 12, while assessing damage done by the militants, the FBI discovered two large trenches dug by heavy equipment containing

"significant amounts" of human feces. FBI investigators also found an "improvised road on or adjacent to grounds containing sensitive artifacts." So, in addition to the armed conspiracy counts faced by most of the other occupiers, Jake Ryan and Sean Anderson are charged with "depredation of government property" based on this desecration. Turns out the Burns Paiute tribal leaders had good reason to express their repeated concerns during the occupation that artifacts, petroglyphs or historical items sacred to the tribe would be stolen, disrespected or destroyed. Tribal leaders have also repeatedly asked federal authorities to prosecute any related crimes.

From my perspective, the FBI discovery reveals all you need to know about the underlying moral character of these know-nothing occupiers, these so-called militants who hide behind the "Sagebrush Rebellion" movement or the "posse comitatus" movement or the "wise use" movement. For the most part these are brutal, arrogant, greedy, misinformed, macho white men. (*The Oregonian* estimated only 23 percent of the occupation visitors were women.) That's why it was so laughable that the Bundy brothers' ultimate demand was that the federal government returns the refuge to its "rightful" owners — the current citizens of Harney County! No mention of the *first* people, the *aboriginal* people, the Paiutes. Hell, these misnamed "Indians" only beat the Mormons to this area by 10,000 years or so! I'm not sure about the fundamentalist LDS, but the Paiutes have Jesus H. Christ Himself beat by a couple of millennia, not centuries, in Harney County! So I agree, sorta: Give it all back to the original "locals."

So far, 27 people have been indicted in connection with the armed occupation at the refuge. According to *The Oregonian* only four are Oregonians; most of the rest of Y'all Qaida live in Nevada, Arizona, Idaho and Utah. Seven have felony convictions, from car theft to murder, and 30 percent of the visitors during the occupation had a past bankruptcy, lien or judgment. And 17 percent of the visitors/occupiers were part of the standoff with federal rangers at Cliven Bundy's ranch in April of 2014. And they were all friggin' armed. GMAFB.

It's now clear the FBI has "thrown the book" at these occupiers. The current federal estimate of the costs of the occupation is \$6 million, not to mention additional costs to the state of Oregon. The trials and appeals will take years. I understand the presumption of innocence. But let's assume that after a fair and impartial trial and appeal these knuckleheads are found guilty. I hope the sentencing judge takes into account the mitigation of this desecration of the Burns Paiute tribal heritage when putting these terrorists away.

Tony Corcoran of Cottage Grove is a former state senator and a recently retired state employee.