

them recite the Pledge of Allegiance at every meeting.

Seduce liberal voters in South Eugene by focusing on the controversial South Willamette zoning issue rather than pressing issues that are of concern to the entire city such as crime, supporting small businesses and homelessness.

Sit back and watch the left divide itself. Rather than rallying around Lucy Vinis, the only progressive candidate who is taking the campaign seriously, some voters in Eugene may opt to vote for a number of well-meaning candidates who filed for the position but aren't running a campaign to win. Doing so will split the liberal vote. If Mike Clark is successful in getting more than 50 percent of the vote next week, there won't be a runoff in November, and Eugene's next mayor will be affiliated with the same party as Donald Trump and Ted Cruz.

Don't let that happen! Please join me in voting for Lucy Vinis for mayor — the only viable progressive candidate.

Allan Hancock
Eugene

SEMPLE FOR WARD 1

As your current Ward 1 city councilor, I am endorsing Emily Semple, wholeheartedly and without any reservation, to replace me on council.

Emily is the *only* candidate who has consistently stood by the South Willamette neighbors in their opposition the radically negative changes city's rezoning scheme would have imposed on their neighborhood.

Emily is the *only* candidate who wants to terminate the MUPTE program and believes that it should be replaced with a much more comprehensive inclusionary zoning ordinance to ensure a significant amount of affordable and work force housing.

She is the *only* candidate who opposes the city's plan to annex hundreds of acres of fertile farmland by the airport to be paved over for industrial expansion.

Emily is the *only* candidate who wants the Downtown Urban Renewal District to end, as once promised, at the end of this year, thus freeing up \$1 million a year to spend on vital city services in other neighborhoods.

Emily will insist on openness and transparency from City Hall and will be our watchdog to ensure that our tax dollars are used wisely. It's no coincidence that she has been endorsed by *Eugene Weekly*, as well as by other budget hawks like

Councilor Betty Taylor and former city councilors Bonny Bettman-McCornack, Paul Nicholson and David Kelly.

The choice really is Semple: We urge you to vote for Emily.

George Brown
Ward 1 city councilor
Eugene

SUPPORT MAPLETON SCHOOLS

The school is the heart of a rural community. It is where our children and our futures are established. No school is perfect. No teacher or administrator or parent is, either. We do the best we can.

Our community's school affords us many benefits. It has provided the space for recent memorials of hundreds of local folks in mourning.

The infrastructure needs of Mapleton schools scheduled for repair or remodeling are real, practical and undeniable.

Some say, "Close the schools, let the kids go to Triangle Lake or Florence schools." Triangle Lake is at capacity. Florence is seeking its own bond measure, and our property taxes could easily be greater than that of the Mapleton district. Don't forget, without a local school for incoming families, your property's market value is likely to drop.

Without a caring, local, quality learning center, kids are more likely to turn to drugs and crime.

Let's support the Mapleton school bond. Pound for pound, it could be the best investment that we could make.

Richard Gross
Deadwood

VISION AND LEADERSHIP

This letter is in support of James Manning for state representative in House District 14. For as long as I have known James Manning, he has been a perfect example of strength, vision and leadership, with compassion and care for his community. He has been here a good many years and has invested a lot of time and resources into making this community great. With his drive, determination, passion and vision to change this community for the better, I know that James Manning would be a excellent choice for state representative, and I feel that it is important that *everyone* know who he is!

Andiel Brown
Director of UO Gospel Choirs &
Ensembles
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many more elections letters can be found online at eugeneweekly.com.

HOT AIR SOCIETY BY TONY CORCORAN

Just Vote, Dammit!

I see all 19 loyal readers of this senile soliloquy heeded my request last column to quickly register to vote in the May 17 Oregon primary. In fact, between new motor voters and locals who switched parties to vote in closed primaries, the R-G reported that 12,000 Lane County residents received two ballots in the mail!

Back when I was in the Oregon Senate, I once urged readers of my column to "vote early and vote often." A constituent filed a complaint with the secretary of state — seriously. My defense was to blame it all on the "Chicago party machine" tactics I learned from two Illinois political advisors and troublemakers, Joy Marshall and Mo Smith. These days it appears the county clerk is promoting that strategy! My, my, how voters' rights have changed.

What a campaign season! If you had predicted last May that Donald Trump would only spend \$9 million of other people's money (he loaned himself \$36 million) and be the presumptive Republican presidential candidate before our primary, or that Bernie Sanders could crowd-fund and spend \$180 million before our primary, I would've told you to lower your dosage of sativa and switch to indica. And I would've promised to come visit you weekly at that nice new hospital in Junction City.

I ignored my own advice from last column about going over to the dark side and switching parties. I stuck with the Dems and voted for Bernie Sanders, just to send Hillary Clinton the message that her Walmart/Wall Street ties and Bernie's message on income inequality both resonated with me. More importantly, it allowed me to vote in the most important race in this primary, the Oregon secretary of state race.

I voted for Val Hoyle. She got local endorsements from *EW* and the R-G, which wasn't a big shock. But *Willamette Week* wrote an excellent endorsement of Val that excoriated her opponent, Brad Avakian, for his negative and misleading campaign. "Avakian is so eager to win he has exaggerated the duties the Oregon Constitution established for the secretary of state, pledging to punish polluters, audit private companies and police workplace pay equality at state agencies ... pledging to be all things to all people in a cynical attempt to seduce uninformed voters. It's

irresponsible." Well written.

Speaking of endorsements, we can all say sayonara to Sid Leiken's upward political mobility. Even the R-G endorsed Sid's opponent, Dennis Richardson.

Just for shits and giggles, I interviewed Peter DeFazio's "opponent" in the 4th Congressional district primary, Joseph McKinney. I told him up front I was a longtime friend and supporter of Peter's. Being Irish, we met at a bar. He immediately asked that our conversation be "off-the-record." I'm honoring his request; he had nothing to say anyway.

At one point McKinney even denied he was running against Peter, although he later admitted he had filed after concluding Peter could not be hurt. He denied having any motive for running other than to "set an example," as he wrote in his *EW* piece. But he had no suggestions regarding campaign finance reform or removing the current members from "offices now held by attorneys who dominate the political class" as he'd written. (He couldn't name the occupation of a single member of the Lane County legislative delegation.)

Puzzling: Is this a speechless candidate who's not running against his opponent, or a used car salesman on West 6th who has turned sour on EmX? Any guesses?

The last Oregon primary held on May 17 was in 1994, my 45th birthday. It was the first time I ran for elected office. True story: I was so insecure and convinced I'd lose that I packed up Jeannie and Simon on the 18th and we headed for a vacation in Key West, Florida.

I'd worked my ass off, as had so many progressive friends. But the daily polling results I was getting from people I trusted showed me narrowly losing the race. It spooked me. In fact the race was so close it wasn't called for four days. I beat the guy by a hundred and some votes.

That was 22 years ago. I never heard from him again. In fact, I had three Democrat and four Republican opponents in my political career, and I never heard from any one of them after those races.

Oh well, as Pancho Sancho once said: Joke 'em if they can't take a fuck!

Tony Corcoran is a retired state employee and former state senator.

