

ported by both George Brown (owner of Kiva and two-term Ward 1 councilor) and Bonny Bettman (retired RN and two-term councilor for Ward 1 previous to George). Josh has been an active member of various committees within the city, including budget and transportation. Both are *summa cum laude* grads with various degrees.

I have decided to back Emily Semple for the position. For one, she has been a resident of Ward 1 for 31 years and wants the job out of a sense of dutiful responsibility to all her friends, associates and neighbors here in Eugene. It is a pleasure to come to learn that her quiet demeanor masks a lightning quick analytical mind.

Even more so, I am impressed that her desire to truly represent her constituency is her agenda. I think she will popularize the position of councilor in such a way that a lot of people will want to step up and give it a try. And if this indeed is a non-partisan election in a democracy, more candidates are needed.

Friendly sidebars for me include:

She is at the young end of the Boomers, which is the Socratic moment for community service.

When she ran for SLUG queen 25 years ago (which was the absolute height of the Eugene Celebration, and a lot bigger than the Whiteaker Block Party), she was the unanimous choice amongst a field of 10 contestants.

She has a couple of lovely, small tattoos on her arms, which in a perfect world would not affect my decision, but most certainly does in this world.

Scott Landfield
Eugene

MENTAL HEALTH LAWS

Rep. Pete DeFazio sadly co-sponsored the worst piece of mental health legislation I have seen in 42 years of human rights activism. HR 2646 is more than 100 pages long, so mainly lobbyists seem to know the details. The worst part is that this bill extends federal financial support for involuntary outpatient psychiatric treatment.

In other words, Americans living peacefully in their own homes could be court-ordered to take psychiatric drugs against their will. I call this approach the “Bill Cosby School of Mental Health.”

I have supported Pete for decades and interacted with Pete personally several times. He’s always been kind of grouchy. That is OK; everyone has a different style. But if Pete legislates for involuntary psychiatry despite many constituents trying to explain why this is horrifying, then we have the right to ask, “Has Pete ever had a mental health check-up himself?” If not, will he?

Those of us with psychiatric labels appear to be one of the last groups that get thrown under the bus, by both Democrats and Republicans. I hope the Senate stops the bill.

Following the revolutionary Michah White’s strategy, I have decided to place my name as a write-in candidate for Congress.

David Oaks
Eugene

WEST 11TH NIGHTMARE

I hate West 11th. As I was driving home in the rain from work, all the vehicles were criss-crossing in front of each other. The old markings were still visible as they filled with rain, and the new markings were impossible to follow. It’s amazing accidents didn’t happen.

Isn’t it curious that as I drive past the workers (going to work in the morning), they are standing around or looking at their cell phones or observing the other workers standing around?

What palms need to be greased by LTD to get this nightmare completed? Will a change in the weather (more rain) encourage the workers to move faster to completion? It’s been months! But it will be worth it for the four bus riders that use this route.

Linda Wagner
Noti

NATURE’S PRIESTS

Our Children’s Trust is making the case for climate justice in Eugene’s U.S. District Court. Seeing clearly the existential threat posed by climate change, children are pleading for the survival of our planet. Adults in the room — the fossil fuel industry and Obama administration — argue that climate change just isn’t so, the government has things under control, the case should be dismissed and the problem left to politics.

Shakespeare wrote: “To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow, it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” Politics: Macbeth without the bloodshed.

Presiding Judge Ann Aiken asks if — since the federal government has known about climate danger for more than 50 years — now might be the time for climate change to be addressed “with all deliberate speed?”

Wordsworth describes children as Nature’s priests. May adults hear their pure voices, embrace their clear vision and follow them posthaste to the altar.

God bless the child.

Benton Elliott
Eugene

SIMPLE CONCEPT

My name is Stefan Strek and I invented “Make Eugene Great Again” (#MEGA) for my campaign as mayor in the primary 2016 election, proof at votestrek.com. Recently, *Eugene Weekly* has been promoting my slogan. Make Eugene Great Again is a simple concept that starts with good people. We have a new school year, and already I see too much garbage and human indecency returning to town. There’s too many dirty rapey hobos and too many rapey frat bros. Eugene is losing its core value of promoting a safe place for hippie flower girls to be their creative selves in a safe environment. If you want to Make Eugene Great Again, then speak out against rape and other garbage in our town. People helping people is what “Make Eugene Great Again” is all about.

Stefan Strek
Eugene

Editor’s Note: EW’s “Make Eugene Great Again” slogan for Best of Eugene is a spoof of Donald Trump and not affiliated with Strek.

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