

to choose a non-drug alternative, but Rep. DeFazio's bill would make this decision more difficult, or impossible, for many Americans living at home.

David Oaks
Eugene

PARK BLOCKS FAMILY

Police in Eugene need to understand that people who are homeless often gather in the Park Blocks as "families." Folks who are unrelated meet, gather and often move around together as what sociologists call "fictive kin." They come together as families to provide one another with mutual protection and both emotional and material support. The "families" collectively also defend against attacks on or abuse of a family member.

When the EPD sought to question and then arrest two young men in the Park Blocks recently, this sense of family kicked in and others in the park then also joined in their highly vocal condemnation of police actions. Past negative experiences with police by people who are homeless, some of whom were gathered in the Park Blocks that day, have led most who are homeless to see police as anything but "friends."

Police are more often than not feared and seen as the "enemy" by Eugene's homeless population due to the treatment they have experienced. It is unfortunate all around, since many officers do not like the role into which they have been placed *vis a vis* people who are homeless, seeing this as not what they were trained to do and often sympathizing with those who are unhoused.

Ken Neubeck
Eugene

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The purpose of this letter is to address Black Lives Matter. I am not in fact a part of the black community, but a part of the Hispanic community, although I do support it and believe more people should be aware of it.

Protests that relate to Black Lives Matter have been portrayed as violent outbreaks in the U.S.; consequently, these people that want to make a difference are wrongly depicted as those who want to create more problems.

With the increase in police shootings and blacks being more likely to become

victims of these shootings after the murder of Michael Brown, Americans believe the flag does not represent freedom anymore but represents the complete opposite. Therefore, more people have been sitting down or taking a knee during the national anthem.

Lives are being lost and injustices keep occurring. Does the African-American population have to decrease in greater amounts for the country to realize that we have a problem?

With the amount of Americans that respect African-Americans, there should be more who want to do the same. Not that they should disregard the national anthem but they should join the fight in aspiring to become a part of the change. As Gandhi once said, "You must be the change you wish to see in this world."

Yes, all lives do matter; but Black Lives Matter, too.

Alyssa Jacinto
Eugene

RECORD PROFITS

The anti-97 ads are deceptive. The Koch brothers, Monsanto and Big Pharma are pouring cash into Oregon just to protect their record profits. *Fortune* magazine shows Pfizer alone has stashed \$74 billion offshore.

Their deceptions include half-truths, lies and innuendo.

One ad claims "doctors across Oregon say." Only a few do: Actually, more than 48,000 nurses and physicians support Measure 97 because our health care system is so underfunded.

Other ads outright lie by calling this a sales tax. Measure 97 taxes corporate sales above \$25 million. It's not a consumer sales tax. They misinform when they say *The Portland Mercury* is in opposition, because the newspaper is actually in support.

Then there's the tricky graph claiming Oregon's corporate sales tax isn't last in the nation. On closer inspection, the light gray print shows the graph isn't about corporate taxes, but about pre-profit supplies.

The state has a vested interest in keeping businesses healthy and able to produce revenue. That's why after a law is passed, they create exemptions.

Nazia Swartz
Eugene



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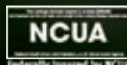
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