

City Hall

'ROSIE SCENARIO' WEIGHS IN ON CITY HALL, EWEB AND DOWNTOWN

So, I asked my friend Rosie Scenario: I know you just sold your prediction business for a big loss after the last election, but what would you do now about City Hall?

"Well, I wouldn't move to EWEB," she says, "even if that siren sounds like a cheap and easy way out for people grown weary and ready to stuff six pounds of wax in their ears."

Why not?

"Edifice complex, rock-in-the-pond, 'Old Town' and T.S. Eliot."
(Confused look.)

"The narrowly focused discussion on the proposed building's symbolic front face, its supposed Eugenean transparency etc., is just an 'ediface complex.' It's a distraction from not facing and thinking about the more critical role of a new City Hall."

Which is ... ?

"An obsessive focus on this building as an object, however energy efficient, has obscured and overshadowed its central role in uniting urban relations into a City Hall place. PPS, the Partnership for Public Spaces, which I know sounds like a double afterthought, has doubly underscored this point. Our focus should be on trying to create good urban places and not just good things."

She continues, "The overarching objective should be trying to create a new City Hall placed in a newly consolidated city-county seat."

Didn't Skinner designate the North Park Blocks for a county seat? They don't seem big enough these days, and the Public Service Building covers most of the northeast one.

"Yes, cities have grown since Skinner's mudhole days, and so have seats. Just look behind and around you. A city-county seat in 21st-century downtown Eugene will now need to cover two city blocks, not just two Park Blocks," Rosie tells me.

"By rock-in-the-pond, I mean that a City Hall project will have two big impacts — two big and consequential rock-rippling effects. The first is its urban design potential for solving multiple urban design goals in one fell swoop: Park Block and N. Park Street restoration; Farmers and Saturday markets much needed support; 'butterfly' parking lot to 'butterfly heaven'; a return of City Hall to a significant site in its historically significant city center; a whole block site for the new courthouse; and the steel-frame of the old courthouse to remodel for City Hall phase II, when we decide to return to the idea that there are some face-to-face city services that really do need to be centralized again," Rosie says.

"But," she says, "the second and even bigger rock, if that's possible, is economic."

"Downtown needs this developmental energy to continue its post-recession, hard-won progress. It's just hard to image downtown losing out on this once-in-50-year opportunity to use the multi-million dollar impact of a two-block, City Hall-County Courthouse governmental seat and Park Block restoration for the development of downtown," she says.

According to Rosie, "Downtown needs this project in order to remain, progress and shine as 'downtown.' The riverfront doesn't. You really don't want 2021 visitors asking 'How do you get to Old Town?' when they come to Eugene.

And we tend to forget that the river will have its seasons, as T.S. Eliot reminds us:

*I do not know much about gods; but I think that the river
Is a strong brown god — sullen, untamed and intractable,
Patient to some degree, at first recognized as a frontier;
Useful, untrustworthy, as a conveyor of commerce;
Then only a problem confronting the builder of bridges.
The problem once solved, the brown god is almost forgotten
By the dwellers in cities — ever, however, implacable,
Keeping his seasons and rages, destroyer, reminder
Of what men choose to forget."*

So, Rosie says, "Here's my City Hall scenario: The county get its needed full city block and tears down the 'butterfly' lot, moving its parking temporarily to the city's empty block. The city gets the half block of property under the north end of the 'butterfly' along 7th that was not a part of the Skinner donation for their new City Hall."

Rosie says, "The county retains and restores its N. Park Block and N. Park Street and builds the public square that Skinner wanted to support market and other public 'county seat' activities. As a part of the trade, the city acquires the old courthouse for future use."

And finally, "Since there is no longer any conflict with Skinner's wishes, there is no longer any legal barrier in the path of my Rosie Scenario."

Jerry Diethelm is a Eugene architect, landscape architect and planning and urban design consultant.

LETTERS

resist Trump's obvious plan to lead this country into escalated wars.

*Jere C. Rosemeyer
Eugene*

CLIMATE CRISIS

The Native American Water Protectors' victory over the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) may seem remote, but there is a way this climate crisis issue is directly in front of me, and all Americans.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, based in Washington, D.C., is one of the main groups championing DAPL and the petrochemical-industry rape of Earth. The climate defender group 350 asked for five years that local chambers assert their independence and say "the U.S. Chamber doesn't speak for me." Unfortunately, only 56 out of 3,000 of these local chambers have spoken up.

Rather than viewing this as a failure, I look at it as a challenge.

Several activists and I have petitioned the local Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, but despite many years of emails, peaceful protests and outreach, the leadership has maintained silence about the climate crisis and the U.S. Chamber.

In 2017, the chair of the local chamber will be Mandy Jones, the chief executive officer for Oregon Consumer Credit Union. I've been a proud member of OCCU since 1988. I am encouraging OCCU, as a member-owned entity, to ask the local chamber to speak up about the climate crisis.

*David Oaks
Eugene*

WHAT SHE SAID

Yes to what Barb Lomow said in her Nov. 23 letter ["Exploited Animals"].

Every time you order a burger or any meat dish, it's very likely you are eating "tortured" meat. It's difficult to find much grass-fed, humanely raised meat in most restaurants, even the expensive restaurants.

It took me a long time to really comprehend the horrors of factory farms. The misery and suffering of the animals is only one aspect. The environmental impact of factory farms is huge.

We do not have to become complete vegans to begin to change our diets and make more healthful and humane choices. Start slowly: Eat less meat, and when you do know where the meat comes from, and the eggs as well. Even small changes go a long way; old habits and taste buds die hard. The millions of burgers and tacos sold in fast food chains are all made of tortured meat.

Educate yourself on what these factory farms look like and what they are doing to sentient beings.

Of course, factory farms are just one example in thousands of the way we as human animals mistreat other animals.

Go to farmsanctuary.org.

Read *No Happy Cows* by John Robbins.

Linda Kanter

US AND THEM

UO Law faculty Professor Nancy Schurtz engaged in an edgy "racial" Halloween image for the purpose of contrast and illustration of the universal dichotomy of the "us-and-them" syndrome always present in human interaction with strangers.

Looks, language, manner, values, beliefs, feelings and consciousness all come

into play when the social content is mixed with different people, of the same human species, meeting and interacting. For the "law" department to not get the reflection she was cleverly demonstrating reflects much more on their lack of consciousness and unawareness of the eternal problem that exists at the root of justice.

For these individuals to claim their role as teachers of law and to miss this reflection because of their superficial unawareness of the "us-and-them" reaction in the name of "good taste" demonstrates the reason why the legal system is not about justice but rather about rules of behavior embedded in law.

The illusion that law and justice are one and the same is clearly demonstrated in the misbehavior of this established law faculty. Law is the instrument of justice and not the regulator of social behavior.

UO Law faculty should grow up and find another occupation (hopefully not in the court system). Legal judgment is not about what the judge likes. Law should be about fairness, understanding, empathy and reason, so as to engender ethical confidence in everyone who is unfortunate enough to have to face this process.

No wonder the Supreme Court, an oxymoron, demonstrates the pitfall of narcissism's judgements.

Schurtz's Halloween playing was a revelation, not complicity. OU faculty didn't get it. I'll bet they didn't know a thing about the book *Black Man in a White Coat*.

*David Jackson
Eugene*

CHILDISH RESPONSE

Given the level of childish response to the election results in Eugene and around the country, it amazes me that people are surprised at the election results at all. The reason all the pollsters, the left and the uninformed got it all wrong? Put a Trump sticker on your car, put a Trump sign in your yard, vocally support Trump and all you will get is hateful words and aggressive behavior hurled your way. So of course people on the right side of the aisle kept their choice to themselves.

There is a solution, though, to quell their sad feelings, and this group of people will undoubtedly respond well to this suggestion.

We give them all a participation ribbon.

*Dan Mattheisen
Eugene*

AERIAL SPRAY RESPONSE

The *Register Guard* published a Nov. 30 guest viewpoint written by former Lane County Commissioner, Anna Morrison, who no longer lives in Oregon. Displaying her ignorance, she suggested that aerial pesticide sprays are nothing to worry about.

If Morrison had done her homework about aerial sprays, she could have started with Arizona, her new home state. Arizona laws require a 1,320-ft. buffer zone for schools to protect children from pesticide drift. Homes and health care facilities in Arizona are protected by no-spray buffers over 20 times larger than Oregon's laws.

So how can Morrison falsely opine that Oregon's paltry 60-ft. pesticide buffers are the nation's best? Oregon timber trespass laws are Neolithic compared with other states. Arizona, Washington, California and