

SLANT

• When Republican Jack Roberts and Democrat (and EW columnist) Tony Corcoran shared the stage at the City Club of Eugene on Sept. 22, the **civility was shocking**. Here are two prominent former office holders talking with a crowd of divergent political views and nobody was insulting, embarrassing or threatening anyone else. It was clear that Roberts and Tony Corcoran disagree on most things political except their shared contempt for Donald Trump. They strongly advocated for their choices for Oregon governor in 2019, Corcoran for Kate Brown, Roberts for Knute Buehler.

• The only **music coming out of the Oregon Bach Festival these days is the sound of silence**. In the wake of the inexplicable Aug. 24 firing of artistic director Matthew Halls, OBF executive director Janelle McCoy is now bumping queries about the festival's future up the food chain to University of Oregon Senior Director of Public Affairs Communications Tobin Klinger, who on Tuesday answered all our questions thus: "We don't have anything to share at this time, but certainly will if something changes." So if anything ever changes at the UO, here are a couple things we'd like to know: Will there be a festival in 2018? Who is going to run it? And where is the festival board of trustees on this? The board's silence has been utterly profound.

• After NFL player **Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the National Anthem** last year, he said in a press conference that "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Kaepernick's strong stand initially appeared to blow his NFL career after he was not signed this year, but when President Donald Trump attacked NFL players who protest, calling it disrespectful to the country and to military veterans, hundreds more players, team owners and more have taken a knee and locked arms in a show of anger, free speech and support that far outshines Trump's pathetic cries of "you're fired." Our own president has no idea what military veterans fought for.



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POLLUTION UPDATE

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sent **Quarren Avakian** a warning letter Sept. 7 for failing to install certified vapor recovery

equipment at **Halsey Shell** (west of I-5 at exit 216). Lack of vapor recovery equipment results in the escape of volatile organic compounds to the at-

mosphere, which in turn causes smog. According to DEQ's letter "[s]mog can cause property damage and health problems." DEQ gave Avakian 30 days from

his receipt of DEQ's letter to correct the problem by installing the required vapor recovery equipment. — *Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project*

HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

ROSIE HERNANDEZ

On the weekend of Sept. 22 through 24, Eugene's Very Little Theatre Stage Left hosted three staged readings of a brand-new play — *Now I am Your Neighbor* — written by Nancy Hopps, directed by Carol Dennis, produced by Community Alliance of Lane County and based on real-life stories of immigrants living in Lane County. One of the featured immigrants is Rosie Hernandez of Springfield, who wrote a poem for the presentation. Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, she moved with her family to Mexico City when she was 12 years old. "I went to middle and high school in Mexico City," she says. "I got married to Marcos when I was 17, and shortly after, we moved to Red Bluff, California. We were undocumented migrant workers." They traveled to Othello, Washington, to pick fruit during the summer, and three years later moved to Othello. Rosie gave birth to three sons, Marcos, Alex and Johannis, and she continued to work in the orchards. "I became a leader of the crew," she reports. "We had 75 to 90 workers. I checked the quality of the fruit they picked." When the boys started school, the family relocated to Lane County, where Rosie's brother had settled, to afford them better educational opportunities. She found housekeeping work at the Phoenix Inn and studied English at LCC while husband Marcos worked at landscaping and building maintenance. She later had a 16-year career with Marriott Hotels as a housekeeping manager, and received several awards for her work and her many volunteer activities. She reached a long-term goal in May of this year, when she became a citizen of the U.S.

