

accessory dwellings, but that kind of government action won't get to the root of the problem. As the Realtors wrote: "As prices increase ... wages don't keep up ..." Subsidizing prices is one approach, but how about doing something about wages?

In January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics issued its report on unions. Among the findings: Union-represented employees earned 20 percent more than non-union workers in 2017. That union wage advantage averaged \$199 per week. With \$10,000 more in annual income, a lot more people could afford housing.

To address housing affordability, Realtors and others should be strong advocates for union organizing. Here's one idea: How about requiring all businesses that receive tax benefits or other public subsidies — including job training of employees — to remain neutral and not fight against union organizing at their facilities?

Stefan Ostrach
Eugene

SOMETHING WILDE

It is important to have representatives who fight the battles for equity and justice. It is even more important to have representatives who can win them. We are blessed to have Marty Wilde as such a candidate in the primary election for House District 11 on May 15.

In his childhood, Wilde's family lived below the poverty level. From this came his appreciation for the public investments

that helped provide them with food, housing, medical care and education. He understands that Oregon today needs to invest more in our own citizens, not less.

Wilde has proven his compassion and empathy through his work on a wide variety of public projects and issues. As an attorney prosecuting sexual abuse cases and promoting environmental law, as the executive director of the Lane County Medical Society, as a member of Eugene's Budget Committee and the Police Commission, he has shown his commitment to progressive public policies and responsible government.

When it comes to adequate funding of public education, safeguarding the environment, protecting women's health, subsidizing childcare and expanding health-care for Oregon residents of all ages, Wilde knows how to fight the battles. And he knows how to win them.

Robert Pinger
Eugene

BAD ART

Designed to prove that football players are more than screws in a corporate bulwark, those who play for University of Oregon have self-portraits in green and yellow adorning a wall of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum. The portraits show men who will hold onto their jerseys even after the ecdysis of graduation has shed the jersey of its purpose. The exhibit is a sad mythopoeia of the present that will soon pass.

The Shedd Institute and Oregon Contemporary Theatre both display Robert Canaga's "abstract" paintings. Unlike the visceral intellection of Mark Rothko's primary swatches or the melancholic turmoil of incomprehension evidenced in the abstract work of Philip Guston, Robert Canaga's anachronistically abstract style is necessitated by his talentlessness. The paintings should all be titled "Still Life With My Arrogance."

Finally, in the EWEB building on 4th Avenue there is a painting of a red chair. One of the clerks told me it's "very controversial," and when I asked why, she said, "Because it's a chair."

Lucian Freud slumped the cudgels of flesh he'd maul in paint with a pallet knife onto the seat of one red chair. His painting of the un-languored-upon chair is a lovely ode, sympathetic to the tedium that imbues life with meaning.

The EWEB painting is controversial because it's hideous and deranged. The left half of the canvas (with unhealed staple wounds along each edge) is dominated by a scratchy slab of black awkwardly imprisoning the ergonomically impossible chair in the right. It is Lynchian in the worst way.

Bryce Jones
Eugene

THE GOOD REPUBLICAN

As a longtime observer of Eugene City Council, it seems to me that there is a great deal of truth to the criticisms leveled against

it. Although it is a deliberative body, its majority often rushes to consensus on issues without fully debating and examining issues. It also often fails to do due diligence on proposals brought forth by the city manager.

Because of this, I have come to appreciate the role that Mike Clark has played on the council. Clark has not been afraid to ask questions, to actually debate issues and to give reasons for his votes.

He also isn't afraid to do research and back up his positions with facts. Clark's independence stands in a marked contrast to the almost Borg-like silent march of consensus that many of his fellow councilors often show. I usually disagree with his positions, but I think he plays a valuable role on council.

As the lone Republican on council, he also does not get credit for often breaking with current Republican orthodoxy, notably of his vote to make Eugene a sanctuary city.

With a Republican Party increasingly dominated by a lunatic fringe, one can hope that his independence and reliance on reason will be a brake on the Republican Party as well.

Art Bollmann
Eugene

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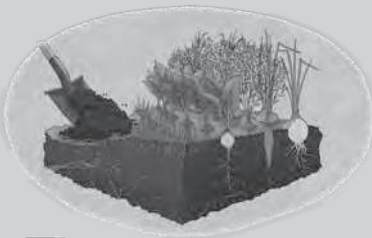
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