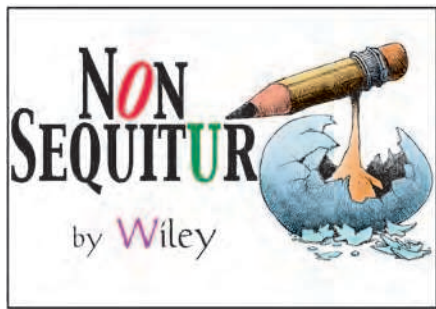




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letters

THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Affordable housing is a complex problem around the country (“The Housing Symptom,” Robert Emmons, Feb. 21). The fact is that there is not enough for those in or close to poverty. Only 25 percent of the people who qualify for Section 8 housing are able to receive it.

Although complex, solving the housing problem isn’t rocket science. There are successful programs like the one for veterans in New Orleans. It seems, as usual, it is the “political will” that is lacking.

Our calls, letters and visits to those we elect to represent us can change this, if we persist and follow up with voting. Housing is a basic need that can be met through action: fully funding programs that work, like Section 8 vouchers, replicating proven programs, and trying out new approaches to determine their effectiveness.

The question is: Will we speak up to convince our representatives to pass the legislation and funding needed?

Willie Dickerson
Snohomish, Wash.

BOILING FROGS

Robert Emmons deserves thanks for his well-written comments on the current housing crisis (“The Housing Symptom,” Feb. 21). The elephant in the room is population growth, but it seems to be political suicide to mention it in the debate on accommodating growth.

By simply noting the obvious, population control advocates are instantly marginalized and labeled as unrealistic and impractical. The truth is that unchecked population growth is unsustainable and directly related to most of our global and local ills.

I agree that such growth is a choice, not an inevitable fact of life. We as a community, a nation and global citizens must make the changes needed to curb population growth or we will all suffer dire consequences.

The main thing that scientist and author Paul Ehrlich got wrong in his 1968 book *Population Bomb* is the timing of

our demise. The eventuality of his predictions is becoming obvious to anyone paying attention.

In the meantime, we carry on as usual, and are encouraged to support policies that will degrade the quality of life in our neighborhoods. I feel a bit like a frog whose watery world is slowly getting warmer.

Where will it end? Will we do anything to stop the madness?

Tom Happy
Eugene

CLOWNS TO THE LEFT OF US

How many of you think Eugene’s Climate Town Hall: Community Organizing for Solutions (Feb. 21) will actually result in any meaningful, local solutions to climate change? It’s obvious that many locals are interested in this event, as there’s no more seating available.

Why is a status-quo politician (Kitty Piercy) giving a keynote address at this event? Will the current mayor, Lucy Vinis, become involved?

“Disempowering the powerful is the step that establishment politicians will not take, no matter how necessary doing so is to solving the problems at hand,” writes Rob Urie in *Counterpunch*, Feb. 15.

I notice Ms. Vinis being hugged by Trump-like clown Brian Obie in the Feb. 15 *Register-Guard*. The \$75-million expansion of the 5th Street Market is an excellent example of why Community Organizing for Solutions will go nowhere.

Who will benefit from the environmental impact of doubling the size of the 5th Street Market? Will the construction of high-priced office and retail space, an 82-room hotel and an expensive 127-unit apartment building clash with the goals of Eugene’s Climate Town Hall?

Oh, I should add that Obie is throwing crumbs (50 units of affordable housing) to the real need in Eugene.

Obie Companies agreed to pay out \$400,000 for this moderate-income housing and, in return, Obie receives a \$4.3 million property tax waiver. This

sounds like business as usual in Eugene.

At some point soon, the people who truly care about the future of all life on this planet will need to accept the fact that domination and control are what American capitalism is all about. Until we agree to discuss and implement alternatives, we the people will continue to lose.

Robert Simms
Eugene

JOKERS TO THE RIGHT

During a Eugene City Club in late January, Gov. Kate Brown referred to “due process” and “trusting the system” with regards to the Jordan Cove LNG Pipeline proposal. Is she forgetting that the project was rejected two times by local jurisdictions and public processes in the past?

Enter 2016, with the election of Donald Trump and him personally seeing new appointees to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Again, we see this project resuscitated from the grave yet another time. It had seemed to be gone for good the last time it was dismissed.

I appreciate Gov. Brown’s observation of due process, but these days — with our politics and environment — are not of the “business-as-usual” type. And Trump’s presidency is an aberration, brought on by overseas interference.

Are we going to let a world-class resource get caught up in the confusion and dysfunction? Contact Gov. Brown now and Oregon State Lands Director Vicki Walker: Tell them to reject this project soundly and finally.

Kerstin Britz
Dorena

A LOCAL GOOD

I would like to commend local Dari Mart stores, and their parent company Lochmead Dairy, for reducing their use of plastic packaging. They have begun switching out their food service cups and deli wrapping materials to biodegradable and compostable paper products. Soon, they plan to introduce non-plastic straws as well.

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