

New Building, Old Idea

A CENTER FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS WILL BE BUILT OVER THE PIONEER CEMETERY

By Camilla Mortensen

The University of Oregon has developed a novel concept to facilitate its expansion, making use of what the school calls “wasted space.” The university will build an athletic center for women’s sports and place it on stilts over the Pioneer Cemetery.

UO Athletic Director Rob Mullens says the idea solves two problems. “First, it’s not like the dead people are doing anything there, so it’s pretty much wasted space,” he says.

Second, Mullens says, despite the recent success of the UO women’s basketball team, “no one really cares that much about women’s sports or comes to watch them. So with this new facility, the women can go play sportsball by themselves and free up places like Matt Knight for real sports.”

He points out the new Center for Ladies Innovative Teamwork in Sport will be conveniently located near Gerlinger and Susan Campbell halls, “traditional locations for women’s stuff on campus.”

“The cemetery is located close to Hayward Field

and other sports facilities,” he points out, adding, “When they are done with games and practice the girls can go watch the men play and cheer them on.”

The stilts over the cemetery is an old idea made new again. According to information from the UO libraries, “For many years the cemetery was considered as a viable space for future university growth.” In 1963, Lutes and Amundson architects designed a plan that “envisioned placing buildings over the graves by means of stilts and enabling navigation through raised walkways and bridges.”

UO interim spokesperson Molly Blancett says that using the old stilts plan with some modifications will also save the school money.

“Really the only thing different about architecture these days is that we need to plan for bigger earthquakes,” she says. “In this case it would only fall on dead people, and we just need to make sure living people can evacuate.”

Blancett says that, with limited attendance at women’s games, evacuation should be easy, and the school will install emergency slides re-purposed from soon-to-be decommissioned Boeing 737 Max 8 airplanes. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY JEFF DREW

Closer to the Heart

A HEARTFELT ANSWER TO HOMELESSNESS, PLUS A SHOCKING REVELATION AT A CITY COUNCIL MEETING

By Henry Houston

After years of hearing from residents who are tired of municipal inaction on ending Eugene’s homelessness problem, the City Council declared an end to the crisis by declaring, “Home is where the heart is.”

The Eugene City Council voted unanimously for the declaration and unraveled a George W. Bush-eque “Mission Accomplished” banner to celebrate when the March 25 meeting adjourned. During the celebration after the City Council meeting, Mayor Lucy Vinis made a not-so-shocking revelation about her identity.

“I really think we’ve solved it now,” City Councilor Chris Pryor, who gleefully seconded the motion, told the *Eugene Weekly*. “Homeless folk can finally rest easy knowing they have a home.”

The City Council’s solution caps several years of policy considerations, such as discussing punitive measures to end panhandling, paying for high-cost consultants and throwing essential oils at the homeless to make them disappear from a business-oriented downtown.

Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, attending the

City Council meeting in their signature green blazers, erupted in joy, applauding the decision.

“We wholeheartedly agree with [City Council]. It’s clear that folks experiencing homelessness need a solution because it’s still so cold outside,” says Brittany Quick-Warner, CEO of Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. “Best of all, this solution doesn’t cost business owners anything because we just can’t afford to pay increased taxes.”

Before the matter was voted upon, City Manager Jon Ruiz offered a caveat despite recommending that the City Council pass the action item.

Ruiz said the action item would need an amendment later down the road to ensure the homeless population’s hearts are subject to proper permits. Ruiz wouldn’t comment to *EW* on how much revenue these permits would bring in, but it would pay off past costs accrued from Eugene Police Department’s anti-homeless enforcement.

Amidst the celebration inside Harris Hall, Mayor Vinis told attendees that since she accomplished one of the goals she established at the 2019 State of the City, she could finally reveal a key truth about herself.

Vinis began to tug at her face, revealing a familiar



ILLUSTRATION BY JEFF DREW

visage. It turns out that Vinis has been Kitty Piercy this whole time.

No one seemed surprised — no one in the audience, city councilors or Ruiz gasped or indicated shock.

Councilor Mike Clark told *EW* that he thought Piercy was still mayor this whole time because Ruiz never told the councilors there was a new mayor. Clark says he just thought Piercy had a new hairstyle, which he was too afraid to compliment since it’s been a few years.

“We figured they were the same person since Piercy is always acting like the mayor anyway, always attending public events, chatting up the public on Facebook and offering candidate endorsements,” Ruiz says. ■