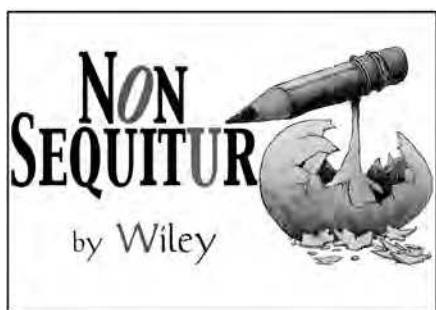




letters

OUR BIRTHRIGHT

Great piece by Avery McRae on the continuing struggle against the corporate state ("Even More Than 15 Minutes of Fame," 5/2) — it's beautifully written.

McRae mentions the affluence she witnessed in Telluride and Manhattan, and I'm sure she has seen the disparity as well.

All the affluence in the world can't equate to the priceless common water, land and air that we all share.

We appreciate Avery McRae and all the young plaintiffs who are continuing the fight that is everyone's birthright.

Nicola V. Calvert
Eugene

THE PARENTS DIG TORREY

The *Weekly* is 100 percent on track with its endorsement of Jim Torrey for School Board. Here's why you are right:

Torrey has proven that he will stand up for under-represented kids. He has taken hard votes to promote equity and more support for marginalized kids.

He listens — he walks his talk when it comes to respect and civility. He is the model of respectful leadership that we need in these polarizing times. He walks his talk when it comes to hard work, too — he's not up on his soapbox, but he's with us knocking on doors for schools every time. He does support progressive, forward thinking health education, mental health supports and curriculum.

I work with hundreds of Stand for Children parents across the district to advocate for better schools and school funding and to hold school leaders accountable. Our members are in schools across Eugene, and we know what is happening in the district.

Our parent leaders unanimously endorsed Torrey because we know him, and we know how much he actually does for schools and kids. This was a clear choice for us: Jim Torrey for School Board.

Joy Marshall
Eugene

THE KIDS DIG SHABRAM

My name is Posey Chiddix, and I attend Sheldon High School. I believe that we need more 4J school board members who will listen to young people when we stand up and ask them to take action, especially when their decisions directly impact students like me.

Progressive female grassroots candidates like Martina Shabram are stepping into leadership roles across the country, making bold changes on behalf of younger generations. As a community health educator for Planned Parenthood, she has impacted many student lives, having taught the importance of respect, consent and individual health and safety in over half of 4J schools.

As a student at Sheldon, I can see the very apparent need to address issues such as large classroom sizes and limited funding. Electing Shabram to the school board will ensure that we can find solutions for the critical problems 4J faces.

On the school board, she will fight for our values of decreasing class sizes, increasing school funding, improving access to CTE programs and giving Community Benefits Agreements to workers who need living wage jobs in Eugene.

Shabram is the only Democrat running for Position 5, and I urge you to vote for her by May 21.

Posey Chiddix
Eugene

RESIST THE HERDING

Yesterday the sales pitch flyer for the new county courthouse arrived. My knowledge of the current courthouse functioning is limited, but it's not a big leap to assume Lane County needs a new courthouse, considering that I'm four years older than the current structure and I could sure use some new housing.

But nowhere in the flyer is it discussed how the county came up with this giant-sized bond package. The issues and solutions laid out are quite sensible. But there's no direct correlation between those solutions and the estimated cost.

I agree that the new courthouse must provide forever-expanding services

to an ever-expanding population for another 60 years. But until the county provides the analysis of how they arrived at this \$252-million price tag, voters should reject this package.

Maybe the solutions can be had for \$200 million, or \$175 million. Who knows, right?

For me the cost would be around \$75 annually. Not horrible, but I'd be much happier about reducing my fixed income if it was clear why it needs to cost me that much. But apparently we've moved into the age of no science, no data, no analysis and no facts, and I'm just being a troglodyte.

Or maybe I just resist being herded.
Tim Gardner
Eugene

FRAGALA ROCKS

Lane Community College plays a vital role in our community and requires the leadership of people with experience, skills and commitment to guide the institution forward. For this reason I enthusiastically support the candidacy of Lisa Fragala for the Lane Community College board.

I first met Fragala in 2001 in the Eugene Middle East Peace Group. From the beginning it was clear that she is a person of tremendous compassion, integrity and passion for fairness. She worked hard in the group, and contributed her intelligence, sense of fairness, ability to listen to others and admirable communication skills.

Over the years I've been aware of how she applied these qualities to her work as an educator. I was delighted to learn she is running for a position on the Lane board because I know how much she believes in the importance of education and how committed she is to work for all members of the community.

Lane County is lucky to have someone like Fragala who wants to give of her time and energy to the greater good. We all stand to benefit with Fragala on the Lane Community College board. Please vote to keep her there.

Nadia Telsey
Eugene

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