

IN MEMORIAM: DAVID LUNNEY

With sadness and great memories, I noted the passing of David Lunney last week.

David was the artistic director at the Oregon Repertory Theater (ORT) during its time in the Atrium and then in the Eugene Hotel.

Theater-goers around in those days will never forget his production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* on the mall, seen by thousands, and I will never forget the excellence of the many shows I saw during his time.

I was fortunate to work with him, suddenly finding myself with a troupe of actors in another league than myself, which is where any actor wants to be, and being mentored by a man I considered to be a visionary.

In his all-to-brief time here, he set a standard of excellence and professionalism in this town that has yet to be matched.

Thank you, David, for your wisdom and your vision. I will miss you. There aren't many actors from those days left in town, but I like to think that there's a bunch more folks who witnessed what I witnessed and remember.

*Ken Hof
Eugene*

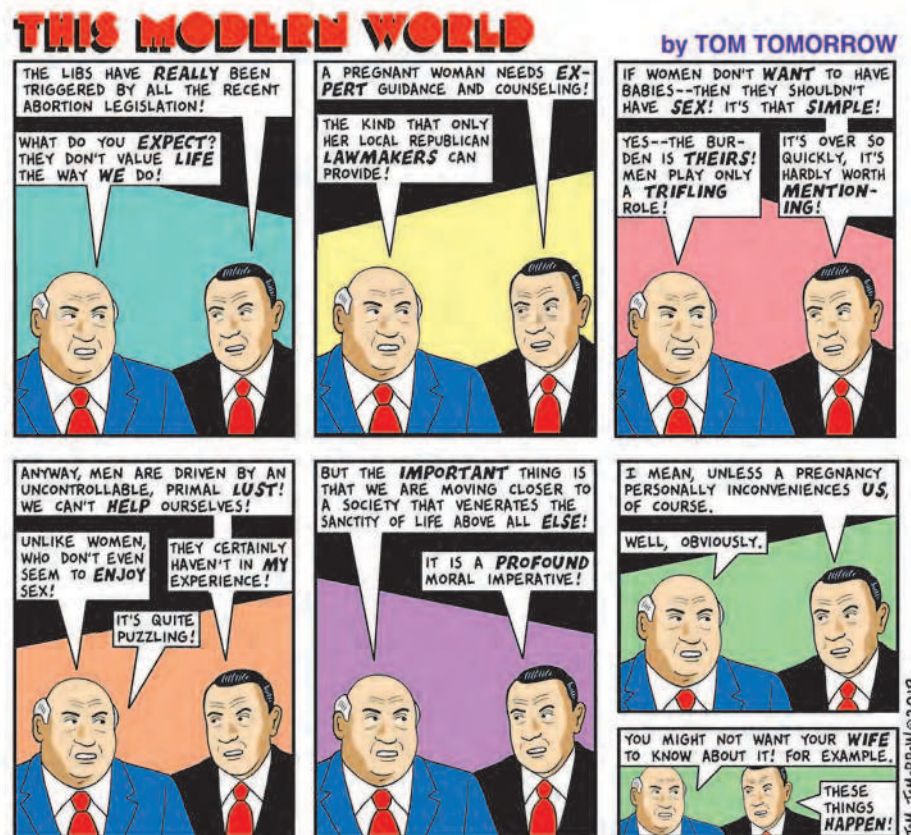
SAVE MIDWIVES

The proposal to end the services provided by Riverbend midwifery is a gross misunderstanding of the essential function of the place and her people.

Midwives have been an integral part of the birthing process for time beyond measure and their prolonged contact is a soft pillow during the plunge into parenthood.

While the nurses at the hospital proper are excellent in every way, it's comforting beyond words to have someone you've met at least a few times going with you into the fray.

The statistics and accounts of the many benefits of the midwives' diffusion of techniques and practices should be enough for this establishment not to be so casually tossed aside.



Speaking as a first-time parent, the close-knit support given in the months leading up to and on through labor, and beyond, is paramount in ensuring a newborn lands in a calm, inviting environment able to handle various challenges as opposed to everyone involved into the pod without anyone knowing how to swim.

I urge those with authority to rethink the idea of closing this house due to a perceived lack of value. It has all the value in the world considering these midwives bring the world home every day.

*Harry Kephart
Eugene*

CODDLING DEVELOPERS

A wake-up call to Eugene residents: We must oppose the overriding of past "refinement plans." Much thoughtful work was done in the past by people who had the foresight to protect our natural resources. There are very sound reasons for the provisions of the South Hills Study, among them the protection of water, forests, habitat, the wildlife corridor, etc.

Our current city government wants to trash those considerations.

We must oppose the changes that the current city government "recommends" with regard to the South Hills Study. Their plans for a "clear and objective code" governing new housing developments will streamline the process for developers, as they state as a goal, but at a cost to the environment and to the livability of our area.

Let's not sacrifice our natural resources in this rush to provide housing. Let's not ease the way for developers to line their pockets at the expense of the general public. More thought and consideration for sustainability and the preservation of our natural resources must go into the planning process.

We need trees on the ridgeline, not houses. Don't throw out the old guidelines. It's time for concerned citizens to contact the City Council and the Planning Commission.

*Betsy Datri
Eugene*

STILL FEELING THE BERN

In the upcoming presidential battle, many look-alike candidates will pop up trying Bernie Sanders' hard-earned approach. They will talk like Bernie and may even genuinely believe in his message.

To a large degree they may be on board with the democratic socialist agenda senator Sanders popularized. They may be younger and have more beautiful or charismatic looks than him. They will probably bank on their politically correct edge if black, LGBTQ, women, Native Americans, Asian or representative of any groups who until Obama have had little or no political capital.

I can't tell you the course these political candidates have travelled or if their loyalties will be maintained if elected. Some may even have good original thoughts (Andrew Yang's call for universal basic income). The truth is, however, that Sanders' unbroken, constant, and uncompromising values since his political beginnings haven't deteriorated.

These candidates will appear to be able to deliver Sen. Sanders' agenda and also have a novel idea or two. It is good that people are starting to think along these lines, but we shouldn't forget that Bernie is the one who championed this revolution — our revolution.

There is only one authentic, unadulterated, time-honored friend America needs right now. We need Bernie Sanders more than ever. Even a birdbrain is able to comprehend this, right?

*David Ivan Piccioni
Eugene*

GO CLEAN, EUGENE

Eugene's City Council is currently undertaking a crucially important task for our clean energy future — determining how to decrease emissions from "natural" gas use in fair and cost-effective ways. This is vital because gas use produces 28 percent of our total greenhouse gas emissions from energy, transportation, waste and refrigerants.

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