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letters

THAT NIMBY STINK

There is a nasty class war going on in Eugene and most of the rest of the country, although locally no one wants to talk about it outside of Facebook pages devoted to the homeless and renters, who are half of Eugene residents. It's our local elephant in the room.

On one side we have the rich business people and middle-class homeowners, on the other side working-class renters and the homeless. Homeowners, and the neighborhood associations they dominate, have a long history of keeping us out of "their" neighborhoods, including all kinds of rentals and homeless shelters. For working-class people, they're the enemy.

So after reading the July 25 opinion piece "Long Day's Journey From Darkness to Light" — what a bizarre title — by Jacqueline McClure and Julie Hulme, I have no sympathy for the position of Greenway Guardians and neighborhood associations against Homes For Good's plan to sell land they say is legally unsuitable for public subsidized housing and use the proceeds to further their work. It all smells like NIMBY to me.

For once I'm glad that a local government agency doesn't have to answer to their opponents or go through any kind of public process before they take action. That's how the NIMBYs stop anything from happening.

We are in a housing crisis. I would like to cram large apartment buildings into every neighborhood in Eugene. It's time to move.

Lynn Porter
 Homeless Action
 Eugene

MOVED TO TEARS

I am so glad at least one noteworthy organization is treating homeless individuals like the people they are.

Elisha Young's story on Teague and Leo in your Pets issue (EW, 7/25) moved me to tears. I often look for her stories and reviews because something about her voice speaks to me.

But this article was her best. She managed to tell an artful story full of emotion that got a very important point across.

With all of the recent regulations and licensing restrictions, I'm proud to see some one campaigning for our vulnerable community members.

Kudos to Elisha, and kudos to the Weekly.

Vance Avery
 Eugene

GET THE HINT, JIM

Jim Torrey doesn't seem to understand that elections have consequences. The recently rejected candidate for reelection to the Eugene School District 4J School Board has put his name in for appointment to a vacant seat (Slant, 7/25). Martina Shabram defeated him just two months ago by a solid margin of 53 percent to 46 percent of the vote.

The Oregon Working Families Party

supported Shabram, Gordon Lafer and Deanna Chappell Belcher because we wanted change and new progressive voices on our school board. Let's hope that his former colleagues don't vote to put Torrey back on the board.

If they do, it will be a nasty slap at the 16,280 people who voted against him.

Stefan Ostrach
 Eugene

NO HOAX, FOLKS

I want to thank Linda Perrine for her Viewpoint piece (EW, 7/18) and her activism with 350.org. I applaud her efforts. Having said that, I wish to share some things not commonly understood about addressing climate change.

Even though this issue has been widely known for 30 years, the human family is burning more fossil fuels than ever before. This is because fossil fuels provide an extremely useful, compact energy density that solar and wind do not.

Try pushing your car the distance you can drive on one gallon of gasoline. Amazing! There are countless things we do with fossil fuels that are far less easily achieved with solar and wind generated electricity.

It is for this reason that the personal responsibility Perrine alludes to is not enough. Some may voluntarily drive less, etc., but most will not.

For this reason, we need leaders who will actually lead and force the dramatic and sweeping changes in our world that meaningfully addressing climate change calls for. People will complain bitterly, but they need to be told: "Here's what we're doing, and this pallet of document boxes is the scientific research supporting our decision. So, please stop shouting and start reading."

Robert Bolman
 Eugene

GUARDING GREENWAYS

I would like to commend Jacqueline McClure and Julie Hulme for their July 25 Guest Viewpoint regarding the proposed Lombard Apartments project in the Willamette River Greenway. In addition to the many important points they make, I would like to add that this parcel of land is critical to protect because of these community values:

Its unique location adjacent to the Willamette River and the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path; the beauty of its 28 mature trees and its wetland vegetation; the scenic qualities of its open space and vegetation that are seen by the thousands of people who walk or bike the riverbank path every year; and the fact that protecting this land, or at least the eastern half of the site, is consistent with adopted goals and policies of the state of Oregon, the city of Eugene and the River Road Community Organization.

Allowing this land to be sold to an out-of-state developer for market rate housing would be a continuation of business-as-usual decisions that are destroying our planet.

It's time to make a wiser choice.

Steve Goldman
 Eugene

SHAPING GROWTH

Thank you for the Greenway Guardian Viewpoint regarding Homes For Good's sale of 3.59 acres to Evergreen Housing. HFG's mission is to develop low-income housing in Lane County; it has held this site located between the river and River Road for 20-plus years.

River Road neighbors are not knee-jerk anti-development. We simply want to have a voice in shaping necessary growth. River Road Community Organization has promoted St. Vincent de Paul's low-income apartment project on River Road just south of Howard Avenue, and has welcomed infill ADUs and "rolling homes" on commercial sites.

We say yes to inclusion, to community, to development designed with respect. High density, high rise, (overpriced) market rate apartments that guarantee ongoing turnover? Please, no.

That's been the fallout from Evergreen's previous development, Ecco Apartments, half a mile north on River Road. It's a treeless expanse of out-of-scale blocks looming over the surrounding neighborhood, creating parking strife, traffic gridlock and a stream of disgruntled short-term residents.

The Greenway site offers access to bike path, bus service and the tree-lined river. Wouldn't this be a great place for affordable cottages or row houses? Is there some reason that low income, elderly or disabled people can't be housed on prime land?

Lynne Lockhart
 Eugene

QUITE A STRETCH

I find no difference between "white supremacy" and "male supremacy," as far as they are both unfair and discriminatory. So will the Eugene City Council now vote to condemn those patriarchal organizations that consign females to secondary roles — organizations such as the Catholic Church?

If not, then the city council is indeed saying it is perfectly okay to discriminate against women.

It is the right and privilege for any individual in Eugene to hold the view that their group deserves "supremacy," for it is their human right to have private thoughts and perspectives.

The city cannot hold such beliefs, as condemning individuals for their beliefs is unconstitutional.

Hugh Massengill
 Eugene

A NEW PEACE

Great to hear about the Nobel Peace Park in Eugene; it's worthy of celebration ("Celebrate Peace," 7/11). It is said, "Peace begins when hunger ends." We call all to take action to bring this about.

We have what we need to end hunger and poverty; the only thing lacking is the

HEAR YE,
 HEAR YE !!
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