

# letters

## NO ONE IS SPILLING BLOOD AT 4J

The *Eugene Weekly Slant* take on the District 4J administrator boycott of board meetings (10/14) was a bit over the top. “Spilling blood”? Come now.

I invite readers to listen to the audio recordings of past 4J board meetings to see if you hear a lack of “courtesy and respect.” What you will hear are board members doing the work of critical thinking and simply asking serious questions, including follow-up questions, in order to make quality decisions.

This has not been the norm in 4J or many other school boards. The usual pattern is a presentation by district administrators followed by a few perfunctory questions. Boards tend to trust, sometimes far too much, whatever the district “professionals” say.

But this tendency to rubber stamp district practices and policies has come at a cost. This is, in large measure, how we have become a solid but conventional district; how teaching and learning have become dominated by standardized testing and data-hoovering; how curriculum and instruction have become increasingly standardized and dictated to teachers — minimizing teacher creativity and innovation; how the humanities have become sidelined because they are not “tested”; and how many dynamic teachers have become dispirited and have left the job they loved.

It’s way past time to question the top-down, standardize and test path we’ve been on for 20 years. It is the ethical imperative of conscientious school board members to ask questions that deserve to be asked. I applaud the board members who are bravely doing their job.

Roscoe Caron  
Eugene

## DON’T USE METHANE AT THE NEW Y

The community eagerly awaits the construction of the new YMCA facility at 24th and Hilyard. However, many in the city are concerned with the plan to install a methane gas domestic water heating boiler system when clean electricity systems are available.

Eighty-seven percent of fossil gas is made up of methane which is 84 percent more potent than carbon dioxide in a 20-year period and it has caused 30 percent of global heating. Methane gas contributes to asthma in children when burned indoors on cooktops and other appliances, which is a concern of parents whose children use the day care facilities.

The City of Eugene Climate Action Plan and the Governor’s Executive Order 20-04 require greenhouse gas reduction goals by 2030, and yet \$25 million of public state funds will be providing a 25 to 40-year methane gas system in the new YMCA.

I urge you to voice your concerns to the CEO of the YMCA opposing the use

of methane gas in the new facility. Be a good ancestor and don’t let the new YMCA contribute to climate change.

Jim Neu  
350.Eug Volunteer  
Eugene

## DON’T TRUST BIG PHARMA? GET THE SHOT ANYWAY

I want to address the ongoing vaccine skepticism in our area. Although most hospitals needing portable morgue trucks to handle the overflow are deep in Trump country, the situation here is different.

I believe that people here don’t trust the vaccine because, like me, they know that the leaders of Big Pharma, like the leaders of most huge corporations, are corrupt, greedy idiots who the entire planet would be better off without. Think of the oil company execs who knew, and hid, the dangers of climate change, for decades, in order to enrich themselves and their cronies.

However, I want to point out that those at the top of Big Pharma are not scientists! In fact they have nothing to do with the science; they are simply masters of exploiting the work and discoveries of others, to enrich themselves and their shareholders.

The highly intelligent, highly educated, highly skilled scientists, researchers, lab techs, etc., who dedicated themselves to creating vaccines that would get us out of this pandemic have nothing in common with the fools at the top, and it is a damn shame that their heroic, and amazingly successful efforts on our behalf are being sabotaged by people’s distrust of their bosses.

Meanwhile, those of us with extremely vulnerable people in our lives are forced to remain hyper-vigilant, as we have been for 19 months already.

Please join the many millions of us, including most of the people you know, and get vaccinated, if only for the sake of those that can’t.

Rick Moser  
Eugene

## CARBON SLEIGHT OF HAND

Can someone with even a whit of scientific knowledge explain how buying a piece of well-managed ground a state away somehow ameliorates the carbon output from within Eugene’s boundaries?

It is financial flimflam at its finest. In medieval times such things were called indulgences. Sorry, Eugene, but to paraphrase a famous saying, “Your indulgences smell the same as everybody else’s.”

Please don’t emulate big businesses. Take care of your pollution the right way by working to truly reduce it at home.

Eric Sprado  
Deadwood

## MIDDLE HOUSING IS THE KEY

I’m an architect based in Eugene, and if you’re curious about the implications of “middle housing,” I’d encourage you to walk through any of the century-




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