

letters

WHY SUBSIDIZE A PRIVATE BASEBALL BUSINESS?

Like Rachel Bitecofer (“A New Civic Stadium,” July 6), my family and I have enjoyed attending Eugene Emeralds baseball games over the years. However, I have a hard time moving beyond feel-good memories to the assertion that “the city of Eugene should ... build a new stadium for the Eugene Emeralds.”

Minor league baseball teams are businesses. At least one student of mine who looked into the matter found that they can be highly profitable businesses. We are told a new stadium will serve as a gathering place where new friendships can be formed and we can strengthen social bonds. Never mentioned by Bitecofer was an estimate of the cost of a new stadium or an estimate of the economic benefits it will bring. Also not mentioned is that using city money to fund a new stadium may merely serve to line the pockets of already wealthy team owners.

Rick Mowday
Eugene

FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORS CLARIFIES ITS POSITION

In *Eugene Weekly* June 29, there was a full-page paid advertisement titled “Request to Stop Franklin Blvd Transformation.” To some readers, the top portion

of the ad attributes opposition to the project to be from Fairmount Neighbors, the formally recognized neighborhood association serving Eugene’s Fairmount neighborhood.

We are aware that there are individual residents and business owners within the Fairmount neighborhood who have concerns about the project. However, the neighborhood association has not taken an official position on the proposed changes to Franklin Boulevard. Thank you for the opportunity to correct any potential misinterpretations of the advertisement’s message.

Karen Dunne
Co-chair, Fairmount Neighbors
Board of Directors
Eugene

CITY HALL ABIDES

First the good news. Eugene’s long wait for a new City Hall may finally be over. The rag-tag assortment of satellite offices has found a nest. Years after our City Hall was prematurely demolished, the subsequent embarrassment of leaving the site an ugly eyesore of a parking lot lingered while the powers that be dithered over costs, design and suitable locations, a solution was miraculously discovered — purchase the old EWEB headquarters, a proposal which was advanced at the outset of this debacle.

Now the bad news. While the EWEB building’s new residents will enjoy a beautiful view of the Willamette River, its new cousins, currently under construction — the new five-, seven-, 12- and whatever-story “market rate apartments” flanking the Fifth Street district and Ferry Street Bridge — will obliterate the public’s view of our beautiful eastern skyline. Don’t believe me? Drive across the bridge and look.

In all fairness, one new building will have four floors of dedicated parking — all on top! Why not dig a hole and park underground, thus preserving the view? Thanks to misguided fiscal policies and poor public planning, big holes in the ground and gravel parking lots in the middle of town are nothing new to Eugene.

Market economics evidently trumps Eugene’s livability and aesthetic appeal, apparently rendering our citizens’ opinions insignificant and bothersome. Pandering to corporate interests smacks of bureaucratic effrontery and public disrespect. Eugene deserves better than this. To quote Jeffrey Lebowski, “This aggression will not stand, man!”

William Crutchfield
Eugene



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