

letters

WITH LOVE TO EW

Sending you this letter of not only commendation but of praise from my heart for all of the *EW* issues that I have been reading since 2006. I'm 95 years old as of May 7, and this letter is my need to express the joy that your quality and informative issues give to me — and I have never missed a Thursday issue.

You are the best!

*Nicholas Lopodota
Eugene*

REPRESENT THE PEOPLE

The city of Springfield is strongly considering annexing an empty 2.3 acre skinny lot, formerly part of the Southern Pacific Railroad passthrough, behind homes on Pheasant and Raleighwood.

The owner of the lot, Gansen Construction, is intending to build as many as 27 units that would tower over and crowd 42 homes existing since 1952. Currently, this area is quiet, peaceful and safe, but that would drastically change if the annexation is approved. This development has a multitude of challenges, such as development of an unsafe one-way small road; no sidewalks for children, wheelchairs or walkers; no room for emergency vehicles, school buses, delivery trucks; fosters traffic accidents; loss of property value due to saturation of housing; lack of current privacy and quiet.

Additionally, because the lot was part of the old railway, it left contaminated soil behind from the late 1800s to early 1900s. No studies have been done to determine what chemicals are buried in the soil, and what the consequences are of digging. Our neighborhood is not opposed to development, but we want smart and safe development that truly supports affordable housing, and this does nothing of the sort.

As the Springfield City Council president states on his profile: "Thank you for allowing me the privilege to represent the citizens..." Yes, please do represent us. That is the role of City Council members, especially when over 75 neighborhood citizens attended the Springfield City Council meeting last week vocalizing our concerns and opposition.

On June 17, the Springfield City Council will hear final plans from the developer.

*Bea James
Springfield*

IT IS GENOCIDE

In their recent letters, Michael Sturman and Zenia Liebman attack University of Oregon students for being compelled to speak out about the genocide in Gaza. We should be grateful that this generation of students does not tolerate injustice regardless of the perpetrators.

Both writers take pains to associate the protesting students with " Hamas terrorists." Neither provides any context. Neither mentions that the Palestinians in Gaza are refugees from the Nakba of 1948 when they were driven from their native lands by Zionist settlers. Neither mentions that Gaza has been a virtual open-air prison under total Israeli control for 17 years with its residents unable to travel back to their homes.

The attack on Oct. 7 and the ensuing battle resulted in the death of scores of people, but that cannot justify the months of indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Gaza. This is not a war between Israel and Hamas, it is an attempt to remove all Palestinians from Gaza — in other words, genocide.

I find it hard to sympathize with people who are so blind to the propaganda of the Israeli regime that, even though they identify as religious, are loudly praising the murder of thousands of children by an overtly fascist government.

All of us should have learned from history that attempting to establish a state for a single ethnic group by removing or confining those who don't belong to that group is racist and requires the use of violence. It should never happen again, regardless of who is doing it.

*Charles Dunaway
Portland*

YES, EW IS BACK

Wow! What a terrific issue last week. Thirty-two pages. Lots of advertisers (we love them). One and a half pages of letters. And an illustration by Chelsea Lovejoy. What a joy to see the paper bouncing back. I'm going to contribute. And if you're reading this, be thankful and contribute.

*Lou Caton
Eugene*

Editor's Note: Thank you! We LOVE a big paper and it's folks like you, together with our advertisers, that make it happen!



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Sunday, June 16 at 5:00 pm
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