

Eugene community. In it are found stories about the noble work of Eugene's citizens, as well as features on well-loved and local establishments, such as in the "Best of Eugene" issues. In this way, *EW* has become associated with what people care about living in Eugene.

Second, *EW* contains some progressive news and opinions, which adds meaning and is satisfying to those thirsty for alternative perspectives in a barren media landscape.

Third, I do not believe that what is represented in the ads is something people would ultimately want their family members, male or female, to become involved with on a habitual level. Sex-oriented establishments can, say, represent a harmless one-time distraction for a college-age person. But for a man to become a frequenter of such establishments would represent a deeper problem that contains the symptoms of addiction and self-destruction. Likewise, who would want their sister, mother, or daughter to make a career in the sex industry? Why not? I think answering this question compels one to empathize with those who have spoken out about this issue.

I certainly wish to avoid any appearance of moralizing, which is not my intent. I do not feel personally threatened by the ads. I can relate, however, to having experienced in the images feelings of banality, which if anything, is offensive to my personal sense of good taste when found in the context of a community newspaper.

David Caruso  
Eugene

## RECIPE FOR EXTINCTION

I agree with what Michael Anderson and Alice Keiser Greth have to say (10/30 letters) about Arnold S., the U.S., Cuba, etc. Here is my take on what the current overall situation is.

It seems that American governance has devolved into a violent outlandish mechanism for controlling the dopey highs of Afghan poppies, the oily fossils of the Iraqi and other deserts, the sadistic stockpiles of the world's weapons of mass destruction and for controlling the greedy strings of the global system of capital flow and its associated propaganda mechanisms. This total scenario is nothing

short of a recipe for human and environmental extinction. Progress in the wrong direction is our most important disaster.

If the decent peoples of the earth cannot establish a viable system of really democratic regulation to keep greed and fascism in check then even hope will vanish from the face of the earth.

Bob Saxton  
Eugene

## STACKED DECK

Are Indian casino opponents using a double standard by not attacking state lotteries as well? After all, state lotteries and the Indian casino games share at least one thing in common: Each is guaranteed to produce a negative rate of return to the player.

The difference is that the lottery is a voter-approved form of taxation whose stacked-deck profits fund education and other public programs. The stacked-deck profits generated by casino slots, for the most part, go into the pockets of non-Indian promoters, investors, managers and the chieftains who award the tribal gambling franchises to these outsiders.

The lottery is a painfully regressive tax. Most lottery tickets are sold in lower-income areas, often those with large minority populations. Nevertheless, budget crisis has goaded "responsible" government officials to expand state games to include video poker and other forms of gaming that appeal to the most addicted.

While there are many questions about the real cost of the public benefits funded by state gaming, there is no question that the money Indian casinos suck from the economy fund little but the casino investors and operators. To the extent the money is reinvested in the economy, it goes, untaxed, to buy real estate off the tax rolls and give casino-related enterprises an untaxed, unregulated advantage over local businesses. No new wealth is created; it is simply transferred. Whatever tribal self-sufficiency trickles down to members comes at the expense of local enterprises being competitively disadvantaged.

As the twin economic evils of state lotteries and Indian casinos grow faster than the overall economy, the bedrock American be-

lief in the connection between effort and reward is replaced by the gambler's faith in luck.

Arnold Buchman  
Florence

## GENTLE BUTCHERING

I enthusiastically agree with Diana Huntington's assertion (11/6) that Bobbie Willis should have followed Laughing Stock Farm's turkeys (cover story 10/23) through Greener Pastures Poultry's slaughterhouse.

Had the author followed the turkeys through the processing plant, she would not have found animals suffering "miserable and terrified deaths" as Ms. Huntington assumes. Rather, she would find a small, immaculately clean facility. While the butchering process can certainly be bloody, she would find that the animals are handled in such a respectful and careful manner that rarely a peep is heard. Rather than an industrialized factory staffed by uncaring (often illegal) employees doing little more than minding the machinery performing all the work, she would find a human-scaled plant staffed by caring employees, paid wages well above the minimum, and proud in their role of producing the best tasting poultry found anywhere in the state.

As a producer of chickens for Greener Pastures Poultry, I am honored to be part of a farmer-owned organization that seeks to change *all* aspects of poultry production. Not only do the production standards for all our poultry require continual access to fresh pasture (unlike "free-range" or "organic" that merely insist on "access" to outside from their vast barns), but the insistence on quality and humaneness extends through the butchering process as well.

People *do* need to be aware of all aspects of their food production, if for no other rea-

son than to challenge their own assumptions about what it takes to produce food — vegetables or animals.

Aaron Silverman  
Greener Pastures Poultry  
Creative Growers

## ESCALATING ACRIMONY

Lately, our local citizenry has been divided on issues that affect the quality of life in Eugene. Whether it's the controversy over Centennial Boulevard, the courthouse, or the UO sports arena, the dialogue is often embittered and sarcastic. While I've been hard-

pressed to understand some of the acrimony, I'm beginning to see how it escalates.

I recently participated in a discussion at Amazon Park concerning a city parks bond measure, where a majority of people affirmed priorities already specified in a communitywide survey paid for by the city. The results indicate that people want to bike more, walk more, swim more, and attend more concerts. Yet, as those present voiced desires for low-cost updates, it was apparent to me that the City

was driving the process in favor of more sports fields.

As a nearby neighbor of Amazon Park, I have witnessed a tremendous surge in traffic since the pool renovation. In my view, it is fiscally irresponsible for the city, which has already more than met its bond goal of updating and building ball fields, to spend more money and staff time pushing for intensive projects at Amazon.

Sadly, it seems to me that the city will only listen if there is a fight between those who prefer ballfields to more open space rather than finding more suitable projects and locations.

We have an opportunity to protect and improve Amazon Park. I love going to baseball games, but I'm voting for protecting open space in our park.

Susan Mannheimer  
Eugene



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