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in the next

EUGENE WEEKLY

ceramic mask by Susan Siwinski for ClayFest Oct. 15- 16

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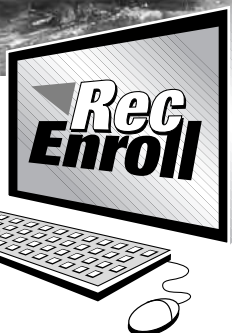
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

raise awareness of bicyclists in the streets, call attention to road hazards that significantly affect bicyclists, and promote the healthy, thrifty, and adventurous lifestyle of bicycling. But whining and complaining is not among them.

Suzanne Pennel
Eugene

TO THE LITTLE PEOPLE

I must take umbrage to Lynn Chiang's letter (8/4) categorizing me as a self-absorbed, narcissistic pseudo-crut, and upper-income nitwit. Me? "Well-adjusted?" I should say so.

I eschew that over-used doggerel "pillar of the community." But in regards to myself, I accept that mantle with humility and pride. There is no need to designate my home address, known to any resident of the Amazon Heights neighborhood. As the first house on Lorane Highway, our estate looks out over a spectacular view of the Willamette Valley, with four pillars in front, and two Bentleys in the circular drive. Four Bentleys if Tad and Melissa are home from school. And I don't mean the Bentley sedans. I'm talking the giant Bentley SUVs you can haul a Winnebago with. The swimming pool is the only one large enough to be seen with the unaided eye from Skinner Butte.

As an all-star Ivy League full-back, I overcame the barriers wealth, privilege and a trust fund can cause. I've lived with them. And I survived them.

Our son, Tad, is a standout of the Yale Young Achiever Center, holding a chair formerly occupied by two President Bushes. Daughter Melissa guest stars on the ABC series "Orange County Princess." My wife, Tabitha, and I can trace our lineage back to the British Royal Family, the Mayflower Club, and the pre-apartheid Boers of the Transvaal.

And, from the lofty pantheon of Those-Who-Have-It-Better-Than-Everyone-Else, and for the veracity of this letter, I can give but one word of advice: insouciance.

Matt Esquire Hannigan
Eugene

FACING STIGMA

Mental illness is a disease. Treatable and costly, like other diseases people suffer from, and one that may be life long. Yet most people do not have to endure the "behind-the-back" laughs in school or work, the stigma of being "unstable" or "incompetent," the loss of jobs or employment perspectives, that grinding awareness that you are different and many people will not let you forget this fact.

If you are unaware of mental health issues, please find out the facts. If you decide to punish others for your own ignorance, please prepare to fall to the wayside.

I have made a pact with myself, my loved ones, and my higher power. I will do everything I can to advocate, educate, and if need be, litigate to change this community's perception of people living with mental illness. Please don't be afraid to join me.

Jon A. Young, BSW
Eugene

NOT SO FREAKY

The recyclers in this community need to get on their soap boxes and preach the words: Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! I'm one who rides the bus or my bike to conserve energy. When I walk I take two plastic bags with me, one for litter and one for recyclables. I've lived here since 1968. I know where all the public trash cans are. I do litter patrol and recycling regularly. I may sound like a "save the Ecosystem freak," but it also has everything to do with beauty, serenity, simplicity and balance.

I went to deposit a juice bottle in one of BRING's recycle bins on Willamette near 11th Avenue across from the LCC downtown center and behold! It was gone! The one in the alley between 8th and Broadway has been removed as well. I thought it was wonderful when BRING put those bins up. So I called and asked, Why take them down? The answer: There was too much trash being mixed in. I personally find that hard to believe, since I watched fairly closely as they filled and saw for myself there was very little garbage going in. I believe it would be worth the cost to hire some extra help. Or better yet, as a master re-

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