

**JUSTIFIED MISTRUST**

Are we to have yet another toothless bureaucracy investigating itself? The answer resides in the outcome of the Nov. 8 vote on Eugene City Measure 20-106. If it passes, as it should, we will, at long last, have a public entity, empowered by us, to punish and prevent police misconduct. Having worked toward this outcome for almost a decade (some have advocated for it for over 25 years), I say it's long past time to address the justified mistrust we have in the city manager's oversight of the chief and his police department, and especially the secretive and unfair manner in which the department's internal investigations process is run.

It's sad it took the crimes of Magaña and Lara to bring this issue to a head. Our city should become known as a place where domestic violence is always prosecuted and punished, not a place where the vulnerable — the poor, women and the politically unpopular — are victimized by those who take an oath to protect and serve us all.

I urge you to vote yes on 20-106, to create a truly external, truly independent police misconduct review process, one under the people's branch of government, the City Council.

*Paul Prenskey  
Eugene*

**WRONG TOWN**

Thank you so much for changing the club listings to the old format! It looks like my two former letters requesting that worked. In response to "This Paper Sucks" (9/29), I like the *Weekly* a lot and am thankful to have a

small, alternative, local paper that's FREE. I think it's cool that the staff listens and communicates with its readers. I think it's even cooler that *EW* actually put your negative, *EW*-bashing letter in their paper.

If you want *EW* to be like *The Portland Mercury*, maybe you're in the wrong town. Eugene is smaller than Portland and much more community based.

*EW*, for me, is a direct, affordable, tangible connection to what's happening in our area. If you don't like it, maybe you should move to Portland.

I fully support *EW* and thank you again.

*Lisa Ann  
Eugene*

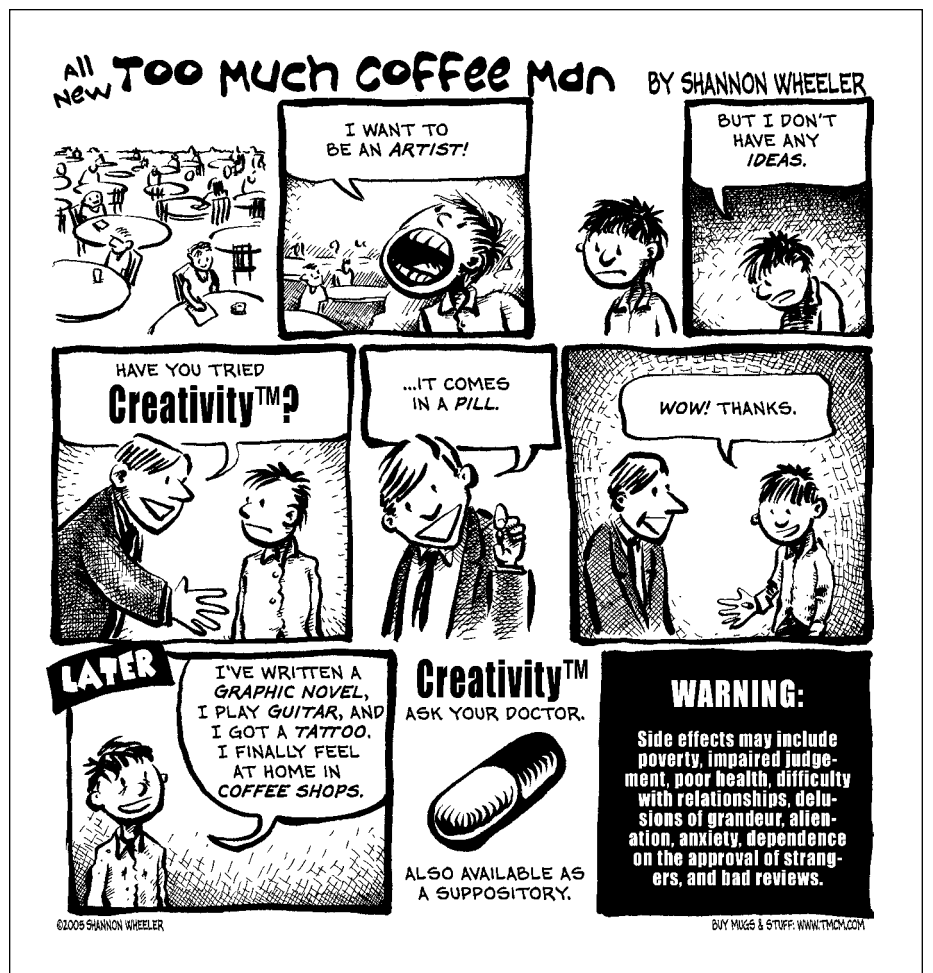
**OVERHEARD**

Overheard in line of the "dining room" — the free dinner place — by some Jerry Springer Types I thank God I'm not related to. They were "raggin'" on a son who wouldn't get a job: "I'll put his ass in the Army. That'll make a man out of him, alright. And, God forbid, if the worst happens to him, what the hell, it's \$250,000 for us and a monthly stipend besides. We'll be sittin' pretty. The damn fool. We sure as hell won't be standing in this line again. The damn fool."

*Lori Kasprzak  
Eugene*

**BLATANT RACISM**

I was shocked to see a blatantly anti-Semitic slur in the *EW* recently. Your Oct. 6 article "Cheap and Choosy" said "Locals demand style and substance for their shekel ...



Here's a days worth of tips and tricks for the choosy cheapskate."

The shekel is a Jewish monetary denomination mentioned in the Torah (Bible) and used in ancient and modern Israel. Your use of this term in this context is perpetuating old derogatory anti-Semitic lies about Jews and money. Would you also print something

about Blacks loving watermelons? It's on the same low level.

The Nazis were well known for printing this sort of thing in the German media, degrading Jews and ultimately dehumanizing them in the public's eyes. We already have trouble in our town with anti-Semitic graffiti and hate literature, but to have something like

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2005, 9:45 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M., ERB MEMORIAL UNION**

Featuring California Congresswoman Barbara Lee as the keynote speaker as well as local and national scholars and activists, including Catherine Lutz, Lakshmi Chaudhry, Karen Houppert, and Gwyn Kirk.

The conference, free and open to the public, is made possible through a grant from the Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage Visiting Professorship in International Studies and Peace. Progressive Response is a cosponsor for Congresswoman Lee's visit.

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