

weave gayness into her *Weekly* articles, because that is the writing career she has created for herself in Eugene. Good work Sally!

*Deb Huntley
Eugene*

IT WAS GOOD

And on the sixth day God created evolution. He, She, It, saw it was good. Then She, He, It, rested. So get over it.

*Philip L. Dietz
Springfield*

OTTER THERAPY

A note to follow Mary O'Brien's column on otters (11/3): I ride my bike through the West Eugene Wetlands twice a day when it is not raining. I have seen a group of four otters numerous times, but then I won't see them for a few weeks and then they appear again. Don't be disappointed if you don't spot them on your first visit.

These wetlands are special to me, and to my wife who walks there almost daily. Watching the birds and other wildlife is the best Prozac there is. WEP would destroy the peace of the wetlands, encourage urban sprawl, and use our tax dollars so people in Veneta and beyond can get to work in Eugene a few minutes faster. Hurray for Kitty Piercy for voting "no" on WEP.

*Richard Hand
Eugene*

GENDER REALITY

Thank you so much, Risa Stephanie Bear, for your viewpoint article (11/10) on your experiences doing something that seemingly heterosexual, female-appearing biological females (FABF) rarely even think about: using the public restroom. It takes great bravery to speak out as you do.

I agree that our entire community loses in our desperate clings to binary black and white ideas of gender and gender identity, and non-acceptance (and worse) of those who don't. I don't understand the fear of a much more realistic fluid continuum of gender, gender identity and sexual orientation. It saddens me that you have to speak out and put your safety at risk instead of the culturally dominant FABF speaking out (and this applies to men as well). I am one of those FABF who doesn't even think about such things as using a gendered public restroom. How privileged!

I make an effort to be respectful to all individuals regardless of appearance, identity or orientation and breach topics like this in my classroom, but what else can I do? Thanks again for your bravery and leadership.

*Bree McKenzie
Eugene*

LEAVE BIKES ALONE

On Friday, Oct. 28, while on a Critical Mass bicycle ride, I and a few others were

detained by the Eugene police. The woman next to me was actually physically pulled off her bike while slowing to a stop as the officer had requested. We were asked about our involvement in other groups as if we were suspected terrorists, and then given a speech about safety. Ostensibly, people have been complaining to the police that Critical Mass makes them feel unsafe on the road. I am dubious about this, as the monthly rides have been happening for several years and I have yet to see a negative letter to the editor about us. "Unsafe" is a word better used when talking about, say, climate change or dependence on foreign oil.

The police creatively interpreted the law by giving us citations for disorderly conduct. Yes, sometimes cyclists at the back of the group choose to run a red light to keep up with the front, which is a traffic violation, not a criminal misdemeanor. I would advise the Eugene police to save resources by taking an example from the Berkeley police, who treat Critical Mass as a "super-vehicle" with the right to stick together as long as the front makes it through an intersection lawfully. And I would advise them to also to cut the unnecessary intimidation tactics.

*Ashley Wright
Eugene*

NOT MY FAVORITE

I, too, was appalled, yet not surprised, at readers' choice of Jeffrey "Free" Luers for "best activist." It takes a certain level of studied immaturity — something Eugene keeps getting famous for — to project the most admiration on actions suited to a half-baked terrorist, while putting the real activist (Peg Morton) in second place. Or maybe I'm deluded to think that "best" has anything to do with "effective."

I raise the issue of maturity because changing the world ain't a piece of pie. It usually takes multiple lifetimes of commitment to get anywhere. If it were easy, we'd have solved all our social problems by now and be living in Utopia. If it were so easy, the commies would have taken over the globe, saving the happy proletariat from drowning in wretched Wal-Mart attempts at happiness. (Or, a free market world would have cast off all vestiges of power-crazed imperialism, living happily ever after.)

Since none of this has thus far transpired, it could be because knee-jerk progressives as well as just about every other political stripe of reformer or "activist" lack the vision, as well as the selflessness, to begin any real change.

Anyone with a genuine résumé — and this means not only the overused examples like King and Gandhi, but also the thousands we never heard about in school, due to an aforementioned studied immaturity — would tell you that honesty, harmlessness and willingness for self-sacrifice are the cornerstones of any lasting and fundamental shift in human affairs.

*Vip Short
Eugene*

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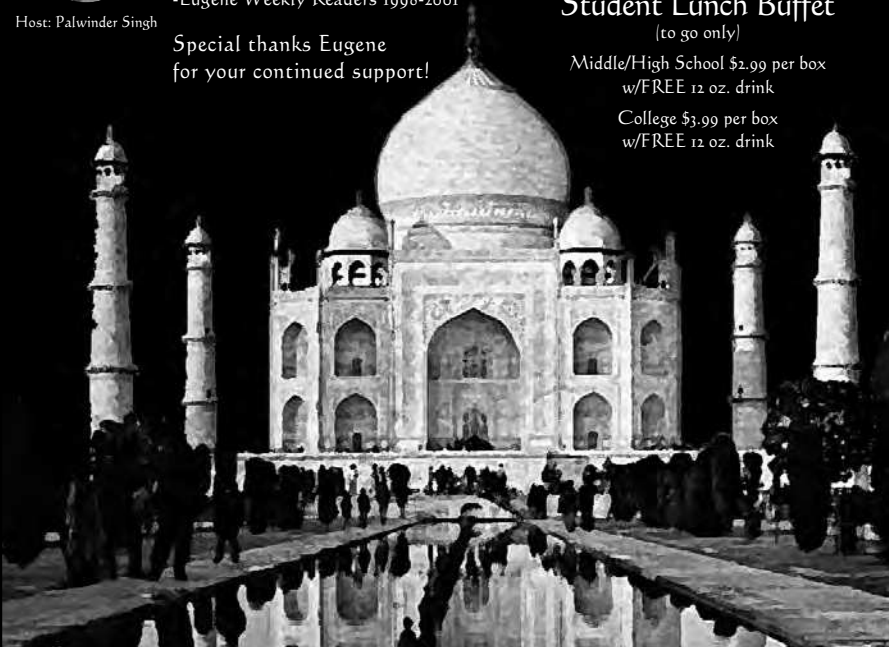
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