

BRIDGE PORK

In spite of increasing prices and decreasing supplies of fuel, politicians have authorized spending millions of tax dollars (and millions of gallons of fuel, including for production of steel and concrete) to build a temporary I-5 Willamette bridge, so they can spend many more millions to tear down the existing, functioning, probably repairable bridge and replace it with a new one, then tear down the temporary one. Now they want to build two more bridges, over the river and the railroad track, as part of an interchange for more convenience of people traveling between Eugene and the north (see cover story, 11/10).

Bridges are costly and disruptive to the environment. They are not good places for the complications of interchanges. An improved Glenwood Boulevard interchange certainly makes more sense, but either location WOULD encourage "big-box development" in Glenwood, where there's room. As fuel prices continue to rise, traffic congestion will be relieved, and long-distance travel reduced, probably more quickly than the interchange would get built.

I see most career professions usually being less concerned with furnishing needed products and services than with creating more jobs (make-work welfare), bringing federal and state money to the local area, with a lot going to those with already more than their fair share of money.

Instead of creating more jobs to match the population, we should be looking at reducing the population to match the real work needed, such as maintaining and improving schools to create better communities.

Dan Robinson
Eugene

TIME TOGETHER

To David Constantin: I read your article, *Pain is Relative*, in the Nov. 17 *EW*. I'm sorry you are expecting your Christmas experience to be so painful. Let me tell you about mine.

My family during the holidays is really two families who have been sharing Christmas and Thanksgiving together since 1955; four parents, and seven children then ranging in age from 16 to 1. Since that time the families have grown, and more or fewer of us have shared more or less every Thanksgiving and Christmas day together. Those of us who have not been present on any given occasion have always thought lovingly of the others in our absence.

We make the effort to come from all over, to share a meal or a day or a weekend, because we love each other. My mother, the last of the four original parents, died in February. Those of the next generation (and we now range from 50 to — well, never mind), and of the next, and yes, now of the next, will once again meet to share our lives and our love for a brief time. We will remember George and Leta and Herb and Grace, and we hope that those to follow will remember us as we pass as well.

No, we won't always agree. Yes, I will laugh at some of the things my sisters do. And they'll laugh at me. And we'll laugh at each other. And we'll eat too much, and some of us will drink too much. And some of us get along well, and some get along less well. Yes,

there will be presents: fewer for the older folks, more for the younger. Some of the gifts won't see Dec. 26 intact. But it doesn't matter. It's the giving and the sharing that count.

And we will be sitting together at table, sharing food, sharing history, and sharing the short time we have together.

That is the torch that we were handed by our parents, that we have borne gratefully, and that we pass to the next generation with so much love it makes my eyes well up as I write this.

And *that* is what Christmas is about to me. Would that it would extend to the world. I wish you and yours the very best for the holidays.

Larry Moran
Eugene

TURKEY REVENGE

This Thanksgiving, President Bush will pardon a turkey as a promotional gimmick for the turkey industry. This Thanksgiving, each of us has the same power to pardon a turkey, but as an act of kindness, compassion, and giving thanks for life, health, and happiness.

The 300 million turkeys abused and slaughtered in the U.S. each year have nothing to give thanks for. They breathe toxic fumes in crowded sheds. Their beaks and toes are severed. At the slaughter-house, workers cut their throats, and dump them into boiling water, sometimes still conscious.

The turkeys do get their revenge. Their flesh is laced with cholesterol and saturated fats that elevate the risk of heart disease, stroke, and cancer. Careful adherence to government warning labels is required to avoid food poisoning. Any day now, they will be bringing us bird flu.

This Thanksgiving, I won't be reading the warning labels or calling the Poultry Hot Line. I won't be staying awake at night wondering how that turkey lived and died. I will be joining millions of other Americans in observing this joyful family holiday with nonviolent delicious products of the harvest: vegetables, fruits, and grains.

My holiday meal may include a mock 'turkey' made from soy, lentil or nut roast, stuffed squash, corn chowder or chestnut soup, candied yams, cranberry sauce, pumpkin or pecan pie, and carrot cake. An Internet search for "vegetarian Thanksgiving" will provide more mail-order items and recipes than I'll ever need.

Edward Newland
Eugene

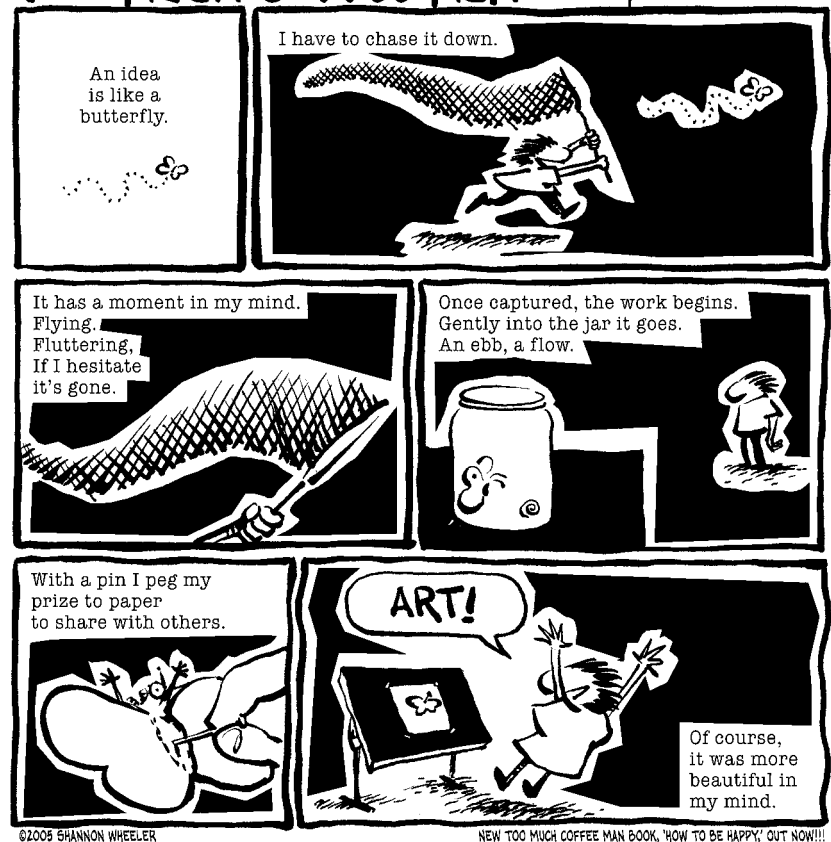
BAD COP, NO JOB

Lao-tze wrote "Conduct your victory like a funeral." This seems appropriate advice in the wake of the passage of Eugene City Measure 20-106. When I came here, Eugene was a town: a college town, a timber town. It has doubled in population between then and now and taken on the complications of being a city. We are just the latest to undergo this change — decades of justice denied leading to citizen action to control police misconduct.

Misconduct is way too mild a word to encompass the damage the likes of Magaña and Lara did. It remains to be seen if there is a flood of complaints when the new system is fully in place. One thing is clear though, the policy of *omerta*, a criminal code of silence, is over.

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

by Shannon Wheeler



An old friend summed it up with "Bad cop, no donut." I say "Bad cop, no job."

Paul Prensley
Eugene

SARDINIA TOWN

Now I know the real reason the city crammed the sewer system down our collective throats in Santa Clara. "It is to save the ground-water," we were told. Ha! How's this for a reason? Landowners are selling out to developers big time, some who don't even live in Oregon. Sardine-type housing is being jammed into our once-green neighborhoods without regard to existing lot sizes. Twenty-four homes crowded into an area that now accommodates 12. It's not just the disparity in lot sizes. The sardine-style housing, which utilizes almost every square inch of lot size, virtually eliminates yard space and is already straining the existing street system here in Santa Clara. Since the new sewer system went in, our once beautiful land has been converted to narrow asphalt streets winding through manufactured homes and tightly crowded tract housing.

The Eugene Code 9.0020 purpose states these are key words only: Ensure an orderly planned use of land, provide adequate light, air, and open space, preserve aesthetic qualities of the community. Yeah, right!

The code also allows the opposite to take place. Houses are being built at an alarming rate without regard to traffic and overpopulation problems. Madison Middle School is near capacity and Awbrey Park Elementary has been over crowded since Santa Clara Elementary closed. In short, our once beautiful community of Santa Clara is being legally raped right before our very eyes.

Thank you very much, Metro Plan.

Cliff Coles
Santa Clara

BETTER READING?

It would be interesting to read *EW* columnist Sally Sheklow's insights about closeted gays in the Bush regime. The chair of the Republican National Committee is gay. The Bush White House had a male prostitute posing as a journalist (under the nom de guerre

"Jeff Gannon"). U.S. torturers at Abu Ghraib engaged in sexually explicit sadistic torture. Cheney's chief of staff, the indicted "Scooter" Libby, wrote a 1996 novel titled *The Apprentice* with a pedophilia and bestiality theme (yuck!). These hypocrisies in the ruling elite would be more interesting topics than Ms. Sheklow's domestic life.

EW columnist Mary O'Brien could explain how she promoted a new, worse route for the West Eugene Parkway in September 2002. This option was developed by Crandall-Arambula, a Portland architecture firm which was also working for the PeaceHealth relocation project. Their proposal recommended 10 miles of new expressway construction (ODOT only wants six miles) and would have undermined nearly all legal objections to the WEP, should the project be challenged in federal court. This option threatened the Royal Blue Organics farm and would have clearcut more forest and paved more wetlands than ODOT's proposal. Details are at www.permatopia.com/wetlands/crandall.html

At the Nov. 10 Metropolitan Policy Committee meeting, State Rep. Robert Ackerman claimed that the environmentalists say a new expressway is needed, and the main promoters of this now withdrawn Crandall-Arambula option declined the opportunity to publicly refute this claim.

Environmentalists and "progressives" need to discuss why we usually lose in order to move past failed paradigms so our shared visions will have a chance of implementation.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

METH NIGHTMARE

Yes Chris Pender, we do have an epidemic! You questioned this in the Nov. 10 issue of *EW*. There are now mothers giving birth to meth addicted babies, and have been for the last 20 or so years

I've lived here. When my son was 14 he was slashed in the face several times with a broken glass bottle by a 19 year old on meth. He will carry these scars forever. The babies born addicted are now grown up and having a