

rights for everyone in Eugene. As a member of this community I am ashamed of the *Guard's* refusal to accommodate a broader spectrum of our community.

And what about the little child? Whether you like it or not, she has two mommies and that will never change. So from the minute she is born, there are those who claim that her heritage is less than everyone else's. Hogwash! Shame on anyone who claims that denial of equality to anyone is appropriate. It is long past time for us to collectively stand up and demand equality on all fronts. As members of the one human family, we have earned it!

Linda Cathey
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: R-G Managing Editor Dave Baker was quoted in a 2/22 R-G story saying "We've heard some complaints and concerns, but our policy is that we don't include in birth announcements the names of unmarried partners unless they're biological parents."

LAST FRIDAY RIDE

Whether you ride your bicycle to commute to work, to pick up the groceries, to enjoy the river path, or to go around the block to visit a friend, consider yourself invited to the Critical Mass bike ride. On the last Friday of every month, at the park on 17th and Charnelton, several dozen bicyclists will meet at 5:30 pm to go on a leisurely paced group bike ride along the streets of Eugene. The purpose of Critical Mass is to raise awareness about the presence of bicycles on city streets.

While vehicles dominate city streets, bicyclists and pedestrians are still legally permitted to use public roadways. However, because many drivers do not realize this fact, they often endanger the lives of countless cyclists — as well as their own lives — by not keeping an eye out for the smaller profile of a bicycle, by illegally taking over a lane a bicyclist is entitled to occupy, by frustration and sometimes even anger about being delayed by seconds (remember: a cyclist is just as anxious to get home as a motorist), which has led to incidents of reckless and dangerous driving.

The intention of Critical Mass is to make a visible statement to the public that bicycles share the road, as well as to encourage more people to use modes of transportation that are not dependent on fossil fuels (which are often the premise for war, or are extracted from the nation's few remaining wild places), and are environmentally sound. A significant percentage of Critical Mass bike riders own cars (though use them as little as possible) so one needn't feel as if he must be a bicycle purist to participate.

So if you want to go on a fun bike ride

with lots of friendly people, where the larger the attendance, the safer the rides are for everyone, please come on down to Critical Mass. See you in the streets!

Scott Humason
Eugene

TRAFFIC DODGING

I have lost count of the number of times I have nearly been run over by cars in Eugene, even when I had the right of way. But what motorist wants to think about traffic rules if it's going to detract from that "important" conversation they are having on their cell phone while driving?

No wonder downtown is so dead! There is not one pedestrian-friendly street in the entire area! Who would go for a stroll when it means fighting traffic at every corner? Any plans for the area always favor the automobile, never the pedestrian. Of course people who don't drive realize that it is almost illegal to be a pedestrian in Eugene, besides being extremely dangerous.

Wes Markel
Eugene

BUZZ WORDS

I wish to comment on the "buzz" words prominent lately in *EW* — and for that matter, everywhere else: self-reinvention.

In reality, who does that? People are merely jammed into new molds and expected to cope. Forever square pegs in round holes.

People do change sometimes or somewhat, but they don't reinvent themselves. No matter how much the bosses (themselves reinvented and static) think it possible or obligatory for other people.

Marcia Sandhu
Eugene

TRANSIT TROUBLE

In the past few years, several rude episodes that fell far short of common courtesy have been directed my way by local citizens and transit drivers. When I objected to their most recent "issue," I was denied service.

I first came to the UO in 1970 and have since developed my skills as an artist. My USMC combat experience in Vietnam ('69) has left me disabled with a sleep deficit (1,000-yard stare) and

I often carry a cane for one floppy ankle and two crushed vertebrae. I no longer drive as a matter of public safety due to seizures.

Due to my suppressed appetite, from the location of my spinal injuries, my appearance remains gaunt and I typically dress warmly in outdoor apparel. These distractions do not diminish my mental assets.



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