

language, and, frankly, their presence was totally unwanted by native-born Americans. The first of these ancestors to arrive was a guy named Resolved White, and he came on a little ship called "The Mayflower."

Immigrants continue to come to this country for a multitude of reasons. Some, like many Colombians, come fleeing war (supported and funded by the U.S.) and human rights abuses (ignored or covertly supported by the U.S.) in their home country. Some immigrants, like many Mexicans, come to escape desperate cycles of poverty that are upheld by US-imposed economic policies like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). For the vast majority of immigrants, getting a legitimate visa is nigh-on impossible. Every single undocumented immigrant in the U.S. would love to be able to get papers allowing them to be here and work legally.

Higher walls, surveillance equipment and armed patrols aren't going to do a bit of good to deter immigration. They'll simply kill more immigrants by vigilante-group lynchings and exposure in the desert.

So I'll make a deal with Mr. Marsico. If he can get everyone in his family to learn an indigenous American language — Kalipuya, Micmac, Onondaga, Lakota, Chinook Jargon, Diné, Aleut, Nahuatl, Tupi, Ruma Suni, or any of hundreds of others — I'll agree with him that today's immigrants ought to learn English.

Ben Martin Horst
Eugene

TAKE DOWNTOWN BACK

If you were born and raised here in Eugene like I was (since 1966), then you can recall the first downtown renaissance that took place in the late '60s and early '70s. It was a walking mall that included two fountains and Saturday Market at one end and a children's park at the other end. Restaurants with outdoor seating and many strolling shoppers dotted the length of Broadway. This is what I recall.

It dawned on me shortly after Conner and Woolley announced that they would not be doing a monstrous development downtown that there is hope for an artistic and vibrantly flourishing new renaissance to occur in our downtown. So, being the lifelong citizen that I am, I decided that if I want to see the flourish, I must do my part. I encourage everyone to come downtown and make it happen!

Let's take back Eugene's downtown together! I'll be playing my guitar and singing from 11 am to 1 pm Monday through Friday at the Kesey statue. Join me.

Elizabeth Cable
Eugene

WHY ISN'T EUGENE?

As a purchaser of and firm believer in renewable energy, I was pleased to learn that Corvallis was recently named an EPA Green Power Community. Simply put this means Corvallis exceeds an EPA-set benchmark for the amount of "green" power purchased. Corvallis is the only city in Oregon and the entire West Coast to be named a Green Power Community.

A relative newcomer to Oregon, I had always thought Eugene to be the more progressive city. Is this not the case with respect to the

consumption of clean energy? A quick perusal of the EPA Green Power Partnership website (http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/gpp_partners.htm) reveals that neither the city of Eugene nor a single business or organization based in Eugene is a member, the sole exception being the UO.

On the contrary, I was able to find numerous businesses and organizations in Corvallis that are members of the Green Power Partnership besides the city itself: CORE Communications, Harrison House B&B, Hewlett Packard, Robnett's Hardware, Sibling Revelry and The Toy Factory. The arrival of Whole Foods will change that statistic as they purchase 100 percent renewable energy, but surely Eugene has room for improvement and should encourage additional consumption of clean power.

Matt Thompson
Corvallis

REALITY CREEPING IN

You might be surprised that I appreciate the concerns of conservatives over immigration. They should remember that this situation was predicted.

We progressives who opposed NAFTA, GAT and other WTO initiatives warned of an economic race to the bottom. Many conservatives said we were opposed to free trade. We replied that we were for fair trade. We were called fuzzy-headed liberals and communists.

Well, reality has crept across the border along with several million Latinos. For example, we flooded Mexico with our subsidized genetically modified corn and destroyed the local corn market. That has driven million of rural Mexicans to the United States. It makes more sense to risk their lives getting here than starving where they were.

The question is, will you connect the dots and work to change the way we do business or will you try to exile and or kill several million Latinos to protect your denial of reality? Remember how hard it was just to send one illegal alien child, Elian Gonzalez, back to Cuba?

Would you rather have fair trade or would you rather pay more taxes to support violence against the poor? That violence would prop up our laissez-faire capitalist system and ultimately depress your own income. The choice is yours.

Charles Dalton
Eugene

WISH IT WERE FICTION

I was quite impressed with your "Battle of the Biscuit" article (4/13). It read like a political thriller. It makes me wish it were fiction when I see yet another story of corporate influence corrupting public servants. Daniel Donato certainly seems brave for a graduate student. As a grad student myself, I'm glad I don't to deal with an oppressive department interfering with my research.

Thank you for covering this important local environmental issue. I have been hearing a lot about it in fragments, but I hadn't really sat down and concentrated on finding out a cohesive story until I read Kera Abraham's article.

Great job!

Carrie Packwood Freeman
UO Ph.D. student & GTF



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