

sense of community, love and creativity. The last time, going even for one day, I also felt lost, confused and uncomfortable.

It's become even more difficult to get around and figure out where things are, and the "sameness" year in and year out has gotten boring and somewhat stagnant.

The fair needs new, hip energy, new movement, a new approach, maybe even an aerial approach using the trees more. It needs to get better dance music, find new ideas. It needs to have new life breathed into instead of the same-old same-old "clique-ness" that it is now offering. The fair needs to reinvent itself. Even something as innovative, imaginative and wonderful as the concept of the Country Fair can become a rut after a while. What a shame to have such a concept take on the clothing of the corporate approach. After all, it is a community fair, isn't it?

There are many of us here who yearn for real community and real energy and, unfortunately, the Eugene Celebration has become corporatized to some degree. So, why let the fair go that way, too?

There's got to be a way for us to come together and put more of that community energy/spirit we all yearn for back into the fair. Let's reinvent the fair.

*Geno Shane
Eugene*

DEAR SCUMBAG

This letter is to the scumbag who broke into my car between July 1 and July 9 in Eugene on Franklin Boulevard. I would like to tell you about a few things you have taken from me.

I am an EMT/firefighter with Fairview Rural Fire Protection District in Coquille. We are a volunteer group that pays for these items ourselves. You took all my firefighting gear, so now when I go to a fire I will be on the sidelines watching the house burn and not being able to help. When I go on a medical call, I hope a rescue truck gets there before me because I now have no medical equipment. You took my medical/fire radio so now I can't communicate to anyone to let them know I am en route or, God forbid, in trouble myself.

To top it off, you took my granddaughter's car seat. Now come on. That is low. What if that baby would have been with me?

If you are reading this, please turn in the fire gear in the red bag and the radio. These things can't be much use to anyone else. The yellow fire coat has "Fairview RFPD" on the bottom and 7542 on the back. Insurance doesn't pay well, and these are very expensive things that I have to replace. And to the person who took my things, remember, what goes around comes around.

*Cindy Gisholt
Coquille*

PHONY SURVEY

I don't know if the local political debate is going to start taking on the flavor of national politics or if the Republican dirty tricks squad's antics have just trickled down to the local level, but I got a very disturbing phone call on July 18. I get so many calls trying to sell me something that I usually just respond with, "thank you, I am not interested," but the caller made a point of saying he was not trying to sell me anything and had just a few questions, so I gave in.

He asked, "Would you be more likely to vote for Democrat Jim Torrey or Republican Vicki Walker?"

Of course my response was, "You must have that wrong. Jim Torrey is the Republican and Vicki Walker is the Democrat."

He said he was reading from a script and that a number of people that had said that, but he was just asking questions. I asked him if he did not think it unethical to call people and purposefully give out misleading information. His response was that he was just reading the script. I asked who was behind the survey and, of course, his response was that he did not know.

I don't know who is behind this survey, but at the very least, I think their behavior is unethical and whoever is conducting it should stop immediately. I am not non-partisan, I am a Democrat and a PCP, but this is not even about party politics, this is about purposefully trying to confuse voters.

At all levels, it seems today that most politicians feel the less the voter knows, the better and if we can confuse the issue with a little well-placed misinformation, so much the better.

I do not know if Jim Torrey or his campaign was behind this or if it is some independent group, but it should stop. Let's not try to muddy the waters with false information couched in a phony survey.

*Brian E. Nessler
Eugene*

FREEDOM SLIPPING

It was with a certain sense of sadness that I read Harald Sundt's letter ("The Parking Lot Big Bang," July 13) in which he extolled the many freedoms he enjoys as an American. My sadness was prompted by the acute realization that these freedoms may soon be ripped from us. Let me explain.

I was able to attend not one but two local screenings of Aaron Russo's new film *America: From Freedom to Fascism* during the first week of July. (It premiered in New York on July 4.) It is the most important and alarming film I've ever seen, making *Fahrenheit 9/11* seem pale in comparison.

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