

we be afraid not only to eat, but to shit as well? Aren't we all full of enough shit already?

In all seriousness, I have a soldier son in this crazy men's war, and, in a nutshell, I really don't want him to kill or be killed for such insane thinking.

Eric Burmeister
Cheshire

TAPPED OUT

The County Public Safety Measure, the city Transportation System Maintenance Fee (TSMF) and a new City Hall all conspire to suck more of my hard earned money out of my pocket. And I'm tapped out!

Mayor Kitty Piercy's clarification letter (9/21) infuriated me. After giving millions in tax breaks to big corporations, she wants me to vote for the County Public Safety Measure, even though it's to fund a system she admits is broken. She says I should support it because it earmarks a few funding "crumbs" for intervention and prevention. It's like putting a Band-Aid on a gaping chest wound. It looks good, yet it has no effect on helping the patient heal.

The system is broken, unresponsive and entrenched in a outdated model that serves no one. These "crumbs" do nothing to fix the system. Fix the system, stop throwing money at it! And Lane County Commissioners: Do you think I'm stupid? Did you think that by giving the public safety measure a Karl Rove-esque title ("Lane County Charter Amendment to Limit Income Tax") that I wouldn't know that you are trying yet again to pass a measure that has been repeatedly rejected by voters? You only have succeeded in proving to me that you are unresponsive and out of step with what your constituents think is important.

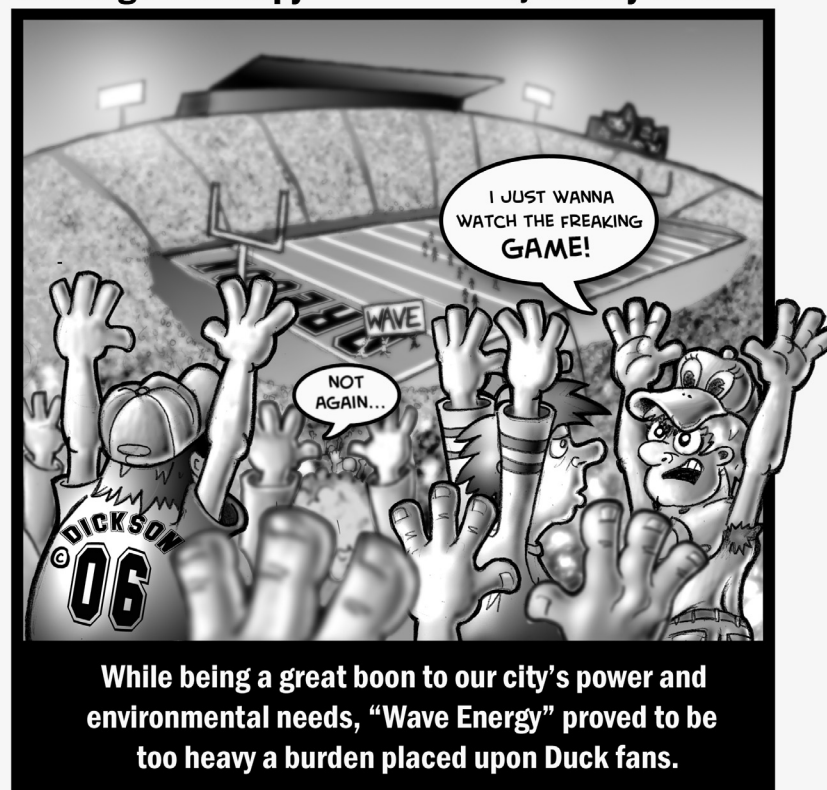
As for the TSMF, I was astounded that the Eugene Budget Committee would think it is fair that a house-bound retiree on a very limited income who doesn't drive or leave their house should have to pay the same fee as someone who owns a \$30,000 car and makes over \$60,000 a year. It is NOT equitable.

I can't afford any more city or county "improvements."

Ree McSween
Eugene

drawing as therapy

by harvey dickson



DIABETIC'S NIGHTMARE

I just wanted you people (in Eugene) to know that today I broke down and shopped Whole Foods in a rich suburb of Boston. Pretty fancy. Pretty big. Where are the organic oranges though? None. They had plenty of conventional fruits, but barely an organic apple. Where is the bulk green tea, I asked. The guy laughed: "There's no money in bulk tea." Where are the organic alfalfa seeds? More laughter. "Buy them on line; that's your best bet." Thanks for the advice, but I'm here to buy, not get advice.

If you want pastries, though, WF is the place to go. They had miles of exotic looking croissants and doughnuts. Whoopee. Thanks for nothing. They had miles of chocolates, cookies and crackers, bulk candies and sodas. Are you kidding me — it's a diabetic's worst nightmare. They also have all of the fancy, expensive toiletries and chem-vitamins for those with lots of extra cash to burn on nothing of value.

ing of value.

I cannot believe there are more than five dummies in Eugene that believe that WF has anything to do with health. The name Whole Foods reminds me of North American Free Trade Agreement: Driving good, local people out of work for corporate jets and retirement islands for fat-assed Texans. Anybody supporting WF should be taken to the wood shed to meet The Persuader.

Paul LeBlanc
Beverly, Mass.

UNPOPULAR SPEECH

In the 9/28 issue, you ran a piece about the pre-concert protest and efforts to get last week's Buju Banton show canceled, in which protesters were quoted as saying they "fully support free speech."

Here's how it works: Freedom of speech is especially for speech that is not popular. No matter how personally offensive it may be to

me, it is my duty to protect the speech of even my worst enemy. That is the only way to make sure that all speech is protected. Don't like what Buju Banton is singing about? Don't go to the show, speak against him, tell people why you think he's bad. Protest outside his show and tell people that you think he's offensive. But you have no right to try and stop the show from happening.

At the end of the article, it says the mayor "supported this cancellation. This is the city fathers and mothers who want to have a city that protects its people from this kind of thing." I find this horrifying. A city that protects its people from expression? Where are they going to draw the line?

I suppose we'll have the mayor deciding what movies and plays can run in our theaters. And the library? Forget about it, we'll just have to shut the whole thing down because it's full of objectionable material.

Eugene's motto is "World's Greatest City for the Arts & Outdoors." Based on this turn of events, I'm doubting it.

Katie Aaberg
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: The story quoted protester Ann Brown saying "Mayor Kitty Piercy supported this cancellation," but here is what Piercy wrote to the WOW Hall Board: "This is not an issue of political correctness but an issue of human rights consciousness. We have to do what we can to say today and every day that we do not want hate speech in our town."

LOOKING BACKWARD

It's only been four months since I moved from Eugene to Portland and I am outraged to hear about a homophobic performer being allowed inside the WOW Hall where I spent most of my youth going to an extreme number of concerts. This certain group of performers are tearing up the community, and I don't understand why the WOW Hall insisted on letting this group visit my childhood city.

Eugene is such a unique and special city to me, and with the community members getting torn up all because of some homophobic jerks, it's disturbing. Is this really the community where I was born and raised? Has the community in Eugene changed this much? I want to know.

Brian M. Peterson
Portland

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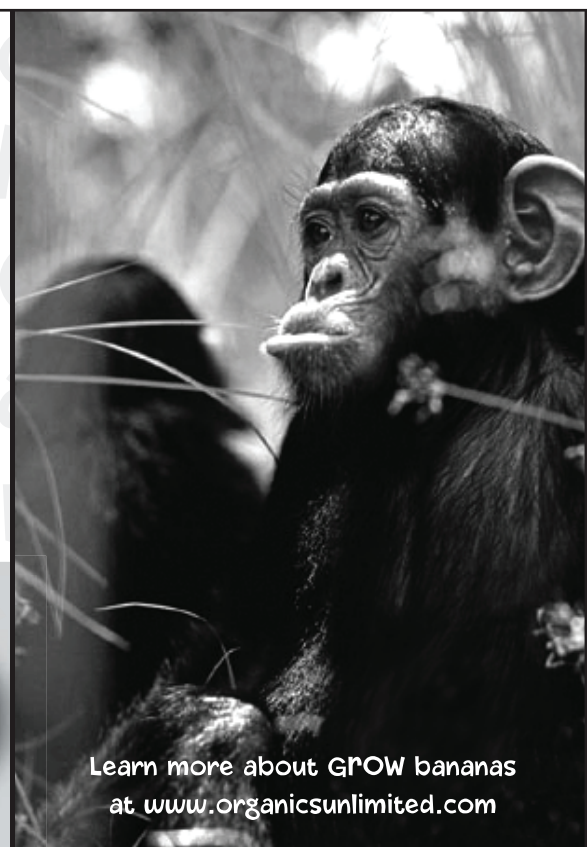
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