

I also wish for more open displays of loving and caring emotions and less worrying what others will think, more honesty and acknowledging that we are not perfect and less caring whether we might look weak or wimpy, more treehouses and fewer houses, more friends and fewer strangers, more play and less work, more acts of kindness and fewer expressions of anger, more quiet calmness and less loud frenzy, more social gatherings and less TV, more creativity and less standardization, more slow simplicity and less frantic chaos, more bird songs and fewer cell phone calls, more laughing at ourselves and less taking ourselves too seriously. More new beginnings and fewer ends. The end!

Tim Boyden
Eugene

FORCING VIEWS

I would ask Alby Thoumsin (letters, 12/21) and others who feel that the eco-arsonists are being unfairly persecuted whether he feels the same way about pro-life extremists who burn down abortion clinics. After all, these pro-lifers feel in their hearts that they are doing the right thing to protect human life. They feel that they have right on their side, that society is not listening and that they must take direct action to stop the evil that they perceive.

And, if Thoumsin does not agree that the pro-life arsonists are being persecuted, then why not? After all, who will be the judge about righteousness?

I will.

I don't want any self-righteous know-it-all to use violence (yes, arson is violence) to force his or her views on me. If you feel that your righteous cause is not getting traction then it is probably because people don't agree with you. Burning things up is a piss-poor response to that. Grow up and get over yourself. We don't need you to save us.

The eco-arsonists and abortion clinic arsonists deserve every minute of their long prison sentences. They should share the same cells. They are no different from each other.

Randy Kolb
Eugene

MYTH BUSTING

I am delighted with the *Weekly's* decision to remove sexually explicit photographs from the escort advertisements. Does this represent a conscious change in policy? I hope so! I had given up hope that the *Weekly* would acknowledge the disrespect communicated by the portrayals of women in sexually humiliating or vulnerable positions.

Women are beautiful and have every

right to do whatever they choose with their bodies, but the preponderance of photographs in the *Weekly* advertisements reinforced negative myths about women. These myths teach us all, through constant repetition, that women are objects to be dominated and exploited, rather than being the authors of their own biographies.

Like Mark Roberts, I believe what we see in the media plants ideas in the subconscious. To learn more about this, check out *Tough Guise* or the *Killing Us Softly* series, films that explore the messages concealed in broad daylight in the mass media. Better yet, watch them with your adolescent children (screen first to make sure you are comfortable with the material). I used both when educating teens about healthy relationships for several years in local middle and high schools.

And more props to the *Weekly* for the beautiful birth announcements!

Rose Wilde
Eugene

PURITY TEST

I've had it with Vip Short's (12/14) sanctimonious letters. Dude is a great guy but I am gonna fight him to the rhetorical death. The issue? His penchant for talking trash about aspects of the fight for a better world that don't meet his personal litmus test of purity.

First off, the Gandhi worship. Take a lesson from Gandhi, Vip — avoid condemning the more militant aspects of our struggle. The Indian anti-colonial movement included assassinations and bombings. The actions of the Green Scare defendants look like a tea party in comparison. Yet Gandhi kept his cool, always bringing the issue back to WHY — why are people this frustrated? He didn't waste time writing letters about how wrong those actions were.

Secondly, Vip's privileged concept of nonviolence irks me. The people who were part of Gandhi's resistance movement practiced MILITANT nonviolence. They shut down factories, ports and other strategic targets, and they were beaten and killed for doing so. Their lives and the lives of their children depended on that resistance. It's a far cry from the pure symbolism of crossing some invisible line and going to jail so you can feel like you've done something. When Vip's crew gets together and stops a military supply train, wake me up.

These are just two of the reasons why I want to cry when I see Vip attacking the actions of some of my dear friends and comrades, actions that have brought repression beyond belief. Actions that went out of their way to hurt no living thing. Actions that freed living beings.



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