

in our neighborhood — and we can't do a thing about it.

The developer seems to be creating a high quality building, for which we are grateful. But it will tower over the homes and two- and three-level apartments around it. The building is not compatible with our neighborhood. It's a dormitory that the UO should have built on campus.

Parking is as big of a problem as the size of the building. Planning rules require only 40 parking places for the 212 tenants. Most of the students who can afford the rent will have cars, but they'll have to park them on our neighborhood's streets. We'll become a parking lot. Ironically, the builder is nearly as concerned as we are; the lack of parking may keep some potential renters away.

The developer, builder and neighbors cannot take corrective steps because the code is rigid. However, you may be sure our board, as well as many individuals, will be participating in the infill siting process and urging the City Council and Planning Commission to change their misguided policies.

With a large apartment building literally looming over us, our Jan. 8 general meeting will focus on planning and infill. We will meet at 7 pm at Edison School.

*Bob Peters*  
SUNA President  
Eugene

**TIME TO UNLEARN RACISM**

I see in your article "Painful Humor" (12/6) that *EW* saw Arellano's column "as a way of combating racism and stereotyping." I applaud your intention, and I share that value. However, I think your approach is not serving its intended purpose.

Your article mentions about half a dozen leaders in the local Latino community, many of whom are dedicating their lives to the well-being of Latinos in Oregon. When they say the column is causing harm, reinforcing racist stereotypes and should be discontinued, guess what? They know what they are talking about.

Thinking that you know better than local Latinos about what is good for them is an example of racism right there. Is the column reinforcing bigotry? Should it be discontinued? You don't need to "Ask a Mexican!" from

Orange County, nor the white owners, board or staff of *EW*. You've already heard from the experts: local Latino/a leaders and community.

Please show respect and cancel the column. In addition, I request that you sponsor some "unlearning racism" events for your board and staff as well as for the rest of us who sometimes do more harm than good despite our positive intentions.

*Sharon Guinee*  
Eugene

**SUBDUING THE MASSES**

I moved from Orange County, Calif., to Eugene in September 2006. To my very pleasant surprise, I discovered that Eugene had its version of my favorite weekly independent newspaper, the *OC Weekly*. The *Weekly*, wherever you are blessed to receive the paper, is one of the few remaining sources of truly free speech in this nation. The majority of print, radio and television broadcasting are controlled by a select few corporations that tend to keep dissent and opinions that may offend their sponsorship in the shadows.

Call me a conspiracy theorist, but I feel the mainstream media is a very significant reason why there is not outright revolution in this country caused by the blatant human rights and constitutional violations by our current presidential administration. Revolution has resulted from far less in other countries, but those countries didn't have billions of media dollars fighting to subdue the masses with cover-up, redirection and outright misinformation as is the case in this country. Free media is a right and a privilege that we should fight for and embrace with gusto.

It is for this reason that I address all of the readers who would like to remove "Ask a Mexican!" this week, "Savage Love" last week and whatever other column to come next week. These are outstanding columns that both entertain and inform, although sometimes employing language with which we are uncomfortable. Gustavo Arellano brings stereotypes out in the open and discusses why those stereotypes exist through humor aimed at Latinos and Caucasians alike.

"Ask a Mexican!" is not mean-spirited by any means, so please allow yourself to feel uncomfortable with this column long enough to

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