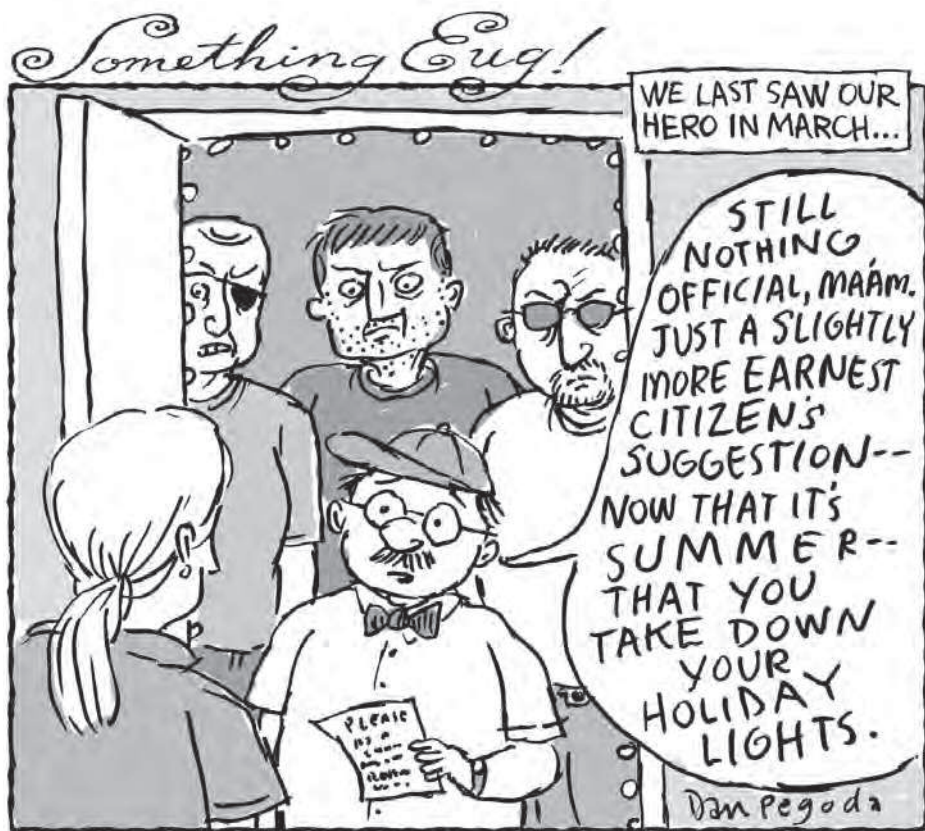




honor the voters' demands and support a proper and thorough investigation.

*Gordon Sturrock
Founder, Veterans Against Torture
Eugene*

BETTER UNFUCKED?

Bob Saxton's letter ("Homeless Decency," 6/12) voiced my exact reaction to the earlier letter by Fred J. Huttinger ("Street Kids"). It also resurfaced a long-standing puzzlement. Why does "fucked" mean things gone bad? Doesn't the word refer to something that is supposed to be an ultimate pleasure? At least when used in the form "fuckin'," it goes from negative to zero, as in, "I opened the fuckin' door with the fuckin' key." Here it has no meaning at all, adds nothing, subtracts nothing, at best reveals a certain paucity of expression.

In German a weed is an "unplant" (*unkraut*), a monster is an "unanimal" (*untier*). Do we really mean to say a situation gone bad is "unfucked"? Guess not; convention is a thousand fuckin' times stronger than logic in language.

The foregoing is pure stream of consciousness, a rhetorical issue, not a criticism of Saxton, who aptly uses the one word to lend needed force to the idiocy of a society at large lacking the insight of a homeless person.

*Jim Wood
Eugene*

WITHOUT SCRUPLES

To the nameless writer and editor who chose to publish a death announcement

in the "What's Happening" section: That section of *EW* is neither the proper place nor a decent way to publish any kind of death announcement. The picture accompanying the piece shows a bunch of adorable children, all on bicycles, wearing their helmets, smiling and waving. It reads, "Biking home from work on Monday, the route we usually follow through the intersection of 13th and Willamette was cordoned off with yellow tape and police cars."

Then it listed the deceased's name, in parentheses "(bicyclist David Minor was killed by an Oldsmobile)" followed by, "so, being the crafty (and idiotic) bike riders we are, we took to the sidewalks and back alleys to avoid all the hubbub, probably breaking a few laws and endangering out safety along the way. Maybe we should take a few lessons from the city of Eugene and the GEARS bicycling group when they offer free classes on how to bicycle effectively and safely as a vehicle."

Who wrote this? What made you think that it is all right to include the word "idiot" in the same sentence as publishing the name of someone who has been killed in a horrific accident? Since when is it OK to write an unofficial death announcement and not include one shred of dignity for the person named in the article? It could have been something as simple as, "In the wake of Monday's tragedy, in which a beloved bicyclist (and native Eugenean) was killed in a fatal collision with a vehicle at the intersection of 13th and Willamette, there is no better time than now for everyone (children and adults) to take part in the city

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