



Admittedly, in my circle of family/friends, lack of trust for the police comes up. And I'm just as certain the police lack trust in many of us, too. Our shared community has big hurdles to overcome.

I left the press conference convinced that this challenge is not bigger than the collective "us," if we all tackle this with good faith and integrity. Thoughtful speakers such as Charles Dalton, president emeritus of NAACP; Lauren Regan, director of Civil Liberties Defense Center; Latina activist Guadalupe Quinn; Dave Fidanque, executive director of ACLU; County Commissioner Peter Sorenson; and young Carly, impassioned and articulate UO student; spoke eloquently, prompting many cheers. Citizen attendees shared thoughtful questions, clearly troubled that the dialogue surrounding the police union/police auditor has deteriorated. Let's get to the higher ground — soon!

Call the mayor, your city councilor, our police Chief Robert Lehner. Voice your support or opposition to external police review. As the three local TV stations did not cover the press conference, we'll have it on the Internet soon — ask around, watch for notices.

*Carol Berg-Caldwell
Eugene*

SNIDE & SNARKY

After reading the June 26 issue of *EW's* cover story "Off-Track Town," I found myself frustrated and disappointed with *EW's* negative slant. Highlight the off-beat, countercultural or strange? No problem. There's plenty of that in Eugene. But what really is the purpose of writing what I feel is an undeserved and frankly not entirely accurate attack piece when there are an estimated 15,000 tourists in town? It's almost as if *EW* wants us to fail. Are there things in Eugene that need to be improved? Of course. But I wonder what stating the fact "Prefontaine lived in a trailer park near the railroad tracks" has to do with any of that.

Perhaps airing some dirty laundry in front of guests will spark embarrassment that induces change. I have a proposed addition to the list:

#33. *Eugene Weekly*. Once just a weekly events calendar called *What's Happening*, the *Weekly* has turned into a snide, snarky rag with delusions of grandeur that can

only complain about what's wrong and hurt people's feelings rather than celebrate what's right and help to build community, improving those things that need fixing. Negativity is not journalism.

If you're a visitor to Eugene this summer, have a good time and come back soon.

*William Kennedy
Eugene*

HOT TIME AT THE 'BERT

A gorgeous night at the Cuthbert (6/26). A smokin' hot concert — Taj and Keb Mo. A fine crowd, ready to build the electric energy that makes for that magical concert experience.

Uh oh, a major glitch! A poorly conceived reserved seating set up with a large, woefully undersold "VIP seating" area. It not only put the crowd at a distance from the performers, it took over the stage front dance area — and the empty, reserved seating and adjacent aisles were strictly verboten. You had to feel sorry for the young Kesey Productions staff with the unhappy task of explaining to an increasingly frustrated crowd why this swath of empty seats and aisle space was off limits.

We all want Cuthbert to be successful. There has to be a better way to ensure adequate ticket revenue and provide an audience the kind of experience they deserve for \$30. This is an outdoor venue, not the Hult — dancing is part of the fun. How about just two very, very expensive rows up front with a dance area behind them? Put the "V" in VIP! What about a smaller, centered section of VIP seating with room for dancers on either side? What about (gasp) one slightly lower price and a larger crowd? The venue can accommodate it.

If you have constructive ideas for Kesey Enterprises phone them at 345-4442 or shoot an e-mail to contact@thecuthbert.com. As Keb sang in one of his final numbers, "She just wants to dance." Let them know that.

*Julie Daniel
Eugene*

GLASS IS HALF EMPTY

After reading yet another dispiriting, negative and predictable article by Alan Pittman, The "Unofficial Olympic Guide

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