

Charnelton RFP, is based in Minneapolis, not Portland. "Opus Northwest" is simply the regional office, which happens to be in Portland. WG, however, is an honest-to-goodness local firm.

Instead of claiming that "downtown businesses" would benefit by the seasonal residence of 500 undergraduates, it would be more accurate to substitute "downtown bars." Do you really think those kids will be shopping at Scan Design?

Whatever other "downtown businesses" (and "street life") you think would benefit from more student presence would thrive at least as much with the WG project, since Pacific University will have classrooms there, which will obviously bring students into the downtown core.

Finally, it doesn't take a market analysis to know that UO desperately needs student housing. The question should be, Is a prime location in downtown Eugene really the right place for it?

Elizabeth Henning
Eugene

HOPE HE STAYS

In regards to your "Imposter" cover story (7/3) about Michael Cipollina [Kenny Roberts], the guy who has been masquerading as someone else for the last 20 years, I'd like to offer my experience with him.

I am a part of the Cottage Grove music community and am a supporter of KSOW radio. I met Michael a year or so ago and have had several interactions with him. I never heard the story about his supposed dad from him, and I do not know who John Cipollina was as I am not well versed in the San Fran 1960s music scene.

I would like to say that my interactions with Michael have always been positive. I believe he is an asset to this community, and I hope he can find the courage to stay in Cottage Grove. He is a great supporter of local music and art and has worked tirelessly in this regard. He is an impressive man in his own right, and I know that he has left a trail of good deeds and accomplishments here. I believe that if he chose to stay he would see an outpouring of support from the community, and his life would be enriched by this experience.

Keith Schneider
Cottage Grove

TIME FOR COPWATCH

Can someone please explain to me why — in a city that obviously suffers from a corrupt and abusive police force — no one has started a Copwatch program? Pleas to elected officials obviously do little good because the police serve as an arm of the government — and both police and local government ultimately answer to economic power and influence, which is often times directly at odds with the public welfare.

Both police and the government have an interest in stifling unpermitted forms of dissent and resistance — which was the real threat posed by the demonstrator recently Tased by the Eugene Police, evidently with the oversight of the Homeland Security Department.

The people of this community need to take it upon themselves to document police abuses and hold the police accountable for their actions. Just the very presence of cameras is often enough to deter the police

from engaging in abusive practices in the first place, and when they do occur, it renders them unable to justify their actions with lies and distortion.

Anyone interested in starting a Copwatch program whereby we actively patrol the community and monitor police behavior, please contact me at CopWatchEugene@yahoo.com

Robin Banks
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eugene has had a Copwatch group off and on for many years, but it is currently dormant. Individuals from Copwatch such as Tim Lewis continue to videotape police actions (see Picture Eugene on YouTube).

BLAME THE VICTIM?

One of the most disturbing outcomes of the most recent cyclist fatality in Eugene is the blame-the-victim sentiment expressed by *The Register Guard* and reflected by much of the public. I have heard no evidence of any recklessness on the part of the cyclist. Yes, it is possible that a helmet may have saved his life, but if it had, what kind of life might it have been? A great many survivors of our car culture are living in chronic pain, some of us missing limbs and/or suffering from serious head injuries, resulting from our encounters with automobiles, despite the use of helmets.

Perhaps instead of requiring our citizens to armor themselves when venturing out into the community, we should increase our mindfulness around the speed and attention with which we move through town. We tend to forget that the huge polluting hunks of metal we choose to move around in are extremely dangerous to all life forms. The least we can do is to operate them with care.

From the biography published in the *Weekly*, and from the memorial set up at the site of the accident, I am filled with a sense of the great loss this community has experienced with the death of David Minor, yet I also feel a great kinship with the spirit with which he lived his life, and the energy and inspiration he has left in his wake. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to visit his memorial at 13th and Willamette. Take some flowers, read the poetry and take in the beauty and biography that marks his many contributions to our community.

Rest in peace, David. My love to you and yours.

Taylor Pierson
Eugene

PRECIOUS REMAINS

We appreciate Camilla Mortensen's thoughtful reporting (7/3 news story) on our Oregon White Oak Enhancement Demonstration that Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah is implementing along the park's summit trail. The project will restore "globally endangered" Willamette Valley oak savanna, woodland and prairie habitats. According to The Nature Conservancy, 189 Willamette Valley species (birds, mammals, rodents, invertebrates, reptiles and plants, etc.) depend on these declining habitats. We should endeavor to conserve the ecologic function of these precious remnants of our natural heritage.

One clarification: Friends of Buford Park (FBP) does not "oversee the 2,300-acre Buford Park." Rather, we work in partnership

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