

PROUD TO FIDDLE

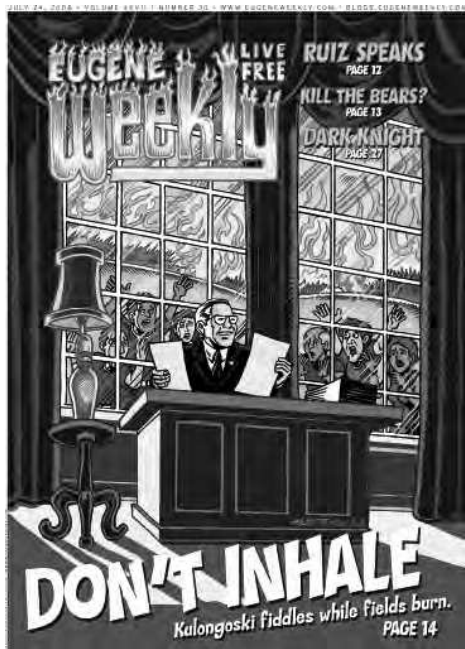
I was deeply offended by the most recent cover of *EW* (7/24). In stating “Kulongoski fiddles while fields burn,” the *Weekly* helps to perpetuate the negative stereotype, which has become all too prevalent in modern society, of fiddling and, by extrapolation, of fiddlers. Why is it that playing sometimes beautiful, sometimes raucous, but always uplifting music, has come to be equated with laziness, drunkenness and apathy? Even distinguished authors such as Aesop (*The Ant and the Grasshopper*) and Mark Twain (“Pa was drunk as a fiddler” —*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*) find the practitioners of this wonderful art form to be an easy mark.

In truth, the fiddle, far from being the devil’s instrument, as the Puritans claimed, can and does bring cheer to many a soul in these tried and troubled times. Have you ever seen a small child’s face light up, or a despondent person gain hope, from hearing joyous music issue forth from this noble instrument? I have.

I am proud to be a fiddler, a distinction I share with Thomas Jefferson, Sen. Robert Byrd and Sherlock Holmes. If Gov. Kulongoski is indeed fiddling while fields burn, he should be applauded, not scorned.

By the way, is any of the grass being burned ... bluegrass?

Chip “Dr. Horsehair” Cohen
Eugene



expand, the two species will grow closer in proximity. Let’s explore means other than killing in the ways that other communities have done.

Lia Gladstone
McKenzie Bridge

VOICE OF REASON

Thank you Kyoho Tom Agterberg (Letters, 7/24)! He spoke the words that needed to be said. Finally, the voice of reason I have been waiting for. He writes, “It seems your paper represents a knee-jerk alternative viewpoint in regards to just about every topic you choose to present.” Perfect description. I love it!

Pardon my “N.Y. attitude,” but *The Village Voice*, *EW* will never be. Sorry folks. So fuhgheddaboudit, OK?

Jono Jett
Eugene

DUMB DORM

Recently a fast moving and questionable “upper class” UO dormitory proposal has surfaced in the *Emerald* (7/17). The site being targeted for this 60,000 sq. ft. project is at the far east edge of the historic neighborhood UO officials refer to as their “land bank.” This site would unduly impact the surrounding Fairmount area and will ensure far greater legal challenges to the nearly adjacent arena site.

The article fails to mention that the project was not actually announced by the UO. The proposal instead was detected by a citizen who then provided it to the media as news. This is important because it is the consistent pattern. The arena proposal

is in trouble due to its unilateral and secretive nature. This interrelated dorm is following the arena proposal’s flawed methodology.

Lastly, the article fails to explore reactions of homeowners adjacent to this who may unnecessarily end up with this incompatible project looming over their property. For more information, email mossstreetconspiracy@yahoo.com

Zachary Vishanoff
Eugene

DICK’S EMANATIONS

Contributor Josh Schlossberg (Viewpoint, 7/24) seems perplexed by the tactics employed by Homeland Security.

No mystery. Homeland Security is a manifestation of emanations that issue from a nebula besetting the medulla oblongata of Vice President Cheney. Bear that in mind the next time some creep at an airport orders you to roll down the elastic waistband trimming your underwear.

Tom Tracey
Eugene

COMPASSIONATE CARE

Alan Pittman’s predictable but unfortunate article on the new Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend is so one-sided I’m surprised it could stay on the page.

Far from being “clueless” about the difficulty people have paying for health insurance, PeaceHealth is an active member of the 100% Access to Health Care Initiative and is a key funder of the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. Its Bridge Assistance program helps people with their medical bills and has been widely

lauded as a model of compassionate care. PeaceHealth provides 6,000 Lane County employees with good health insurance and pays an average wage of \$58,000 per year to its non-physician staff.

A couple of small but irksome errors that need correction (I did my research, Mr. Pittman, did you?).

The hospital itself cost \$367 million, not half a billion. (The cost rises to \$567 million if one adds the new medical building, parking structure to support it and site improvements for future development.)

No PeaceHealth executive makes \$1 million a year.

What you call chandeliers I call light fixtures. Surely even *EW* would agree we need some illumination on dark Oregon days.

It’s nice *EW* noticed the amenities that are designed to provide a welcoming atmosphere, relax patients and families, reduce the need for pain medication and speed recovery. What’s puzzling is *EW*’s criticism of such a progressive, holistic approach to healing.

Sacred Heart involved the community in the design of RiverBend in an unprecedented way. The results speak for themselves.

Richard Keller
Eugene

BIKE LAWS

I am a bike-riding, car-driving, feet-walking, tax-paying Eugene citizen. With recent events, such as the Olympic Trials and the biker who was killed on 13th, I got to thinking about Eugene bike laws. Two of my bike-riding friends got \$240 tickets for running stop signs, and one of my friends got a ticket for “riding too fast” on his skateboard in downtown Eugene. These are the first tickets for alternative transportation that I’ve witnessed in Eugene, and all three happened during the Trials.

How are the bike riders and other people using alternative modes of transportation supposed to be held accountable when it is not standard practice to inform these people of the laws? If bikes are not considered dangerous enough to even get a sheet of paper with their laws on it, how is it fair that they get such ridiculously expensive tickets?

If bike riders are really posing a threat to harm themselves or others, I think that when you buy a bike in Eugene, you should get a list of how biking on busy streets works, how you can do it safely, and what you can be held accountable for by law. Then maybe we wouldn’t have bike riders riding in the middle of streets that aren’t designated bike-friendly streets, and if they do get pulled over for something, at least they’ll understand beforehand that they’re breaking a law.

Even if I had looked up skateboarding laws, I would have never assumed that they had a speed limit.

Leah Kleinberger
Eugene

IMPEACHMENT TIME

Impeachment: It’s a word on a lot of people’s minds. Many people want it, and bugger all if they’re pissed that they’re not getting it. There have been petitions, rallies, movements, protests and

campaigns galore for a couple years now, and still no action.

Inspired by Congressman Kucinich’s July introduction of a single article of impeachment, I suggested to Congressman DeFazio to do things, the first being to stand up and introduce a single article of impeachment; the second being to encourage other Congressmen to do the same. I encourage everyone reading this to encourage DeFazio in the same manner. Who knows, if enough people speak directly to him, maybe something will start to happen.

Wayne Manselle
Eugene

MARTIAL LAW

How about this scenario: Obama wins and Bush immediately declares martial law, announcing that, as commander-in-chief, he is nullifying the election and suspending the Constitution, on seven separate national security grounds.

Far-fetched? I don’t think so. Earlier this year, in a presidential finding attached to some national security legislation, Bush, Cheney and their Justice Department declared that basic preconditions for a national security emergency (aka martial law) are present and that the commander-in-chief has the power to invoke wartime

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