

TWO PROPER GANDERS

In "Journalism's Appalling Condition" (1/22), Alan Pittman notes that "many media ethicists condemn public relations as propaganda." He could just as credibly say that many media ethicists condemn subjective alternative newspapers (defined in Wikipedia as "a type of newspaper that eschews comprehensive coverage of general news in favor of opinionated reviews and columns") as propaganda.

Pot, meet kettle.

John Mitchell
Eugene

A LIE IS A LIE

The *Weekly* correctly criticized the Bush administration's lies, damned lies and their statistics. These guys should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for what they did the last eight years and for lying to us about it.

I couldn't care less who Sam Adams has sex with or if he lies to his significant other, family or friends. However, there can be little doubt that his lying about the affair was politically motivated as it had the potential to cost him the election.

So now, according to the *Weekly* (Slant, 1/29), we just need to get over Adams lying. Sorry guys, you can't have it both ways. Either it matters when politicians lie to the voters or it doesn't. What's it going to be?

Robert Benedict
Springfield

DA AVOIDS OVERSIGHT

I am writing to support the statements in your Jan. 29 issue by Bonny Bettman regarding the actions of the Lane County DA's office in interfering with the civilian review of the Ian Van Ornum Taser incident May 30. The fact is, Eugene would never even need to have a police auditor if the Lane County DA was doing his duty to provide appropriate civilian oversight of police conduct.

Instead, the DA's office could not be

more biased, and has never made any effort to provide a reasonable level of oversight. Former DA Doug Harclerod would often show up immediately upon the scene of police shootings of civilians and make statements to the press that the shootings were justified, often within a matter of a few hours. No reasonable or unbiased investigation could possibly be done so quickly.

While the DA's office complains about how badly strapped its resources are, it still decided to move Van Ornum's misdemeanor case out of Municipal Court, where it properly belonged, and take over prosecution. So rather than prosecute any dangerous criminals on Feb. 10, the DA's office will instead begin its prosecution of a UO student whose only "crime" was a desire to exercise his guaranteed right of free speech.

Van Ornum's trial will clearly be a watershed event for Lane County. I urge all responsible citizens to protest this perversion of justice.

Lance Jacobs
Springfield

UNARTFUL IMPROV

My husband and I were quite excited to attend the Last Friday Art Walk on Jan. 30, as it had been some time since we were able to experience the beautiful work that is the backbone of our community. Such a shame that we took your recommendation and stayed out late to see PotPie Improv Theater as well.

We had hoped to sit down at the always-wonderful Lord Leebrick Theater and have a good laugh. Surely with all the talented young people in Eugene we could see something in the tradition of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" But shame on us for setting the bar so high. What we witnessed was a barrage of "jokes" that referenced lesbianism, Hitler and the late Heath Ledger, and also made mock of local individuals like Rick Dancer. I must admit that neither my husband or I know

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

there's
that
melody
again

WITH A DEMOCRAT IN OFFICE, THE ESTABLISHMENT MEDIA STRIKE UP A REFRAIN WE HAVEN'T HEARD IN, OH, EIGHT YEARS OR SO...

--AND WILL PRESIDENT OBAMA RISE ABOVE IDEOLOGY AND INCLUDE THE REPUBLICANS AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN EVERY DECISION HE MAKES?

IT'S REALLY THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE THING TO DO!

HOW DEEPLY THIS MESSAGE RESONATES WITH OBAMA HAS LONG BEEN A SUBJECT OF DEBATE AMONG HIS SUPPORTERS.

HE SAYS HE WANTS TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS--BUT IN OUR IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS HE ASSURES ME HE DOES NOT MEAN IT!

MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO WORK WITH THEM?

BUT WHAT IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS US TO NOT THINK?

BUT CLEARLY--EVEN AFTER A BLOWOUT ELECTION--DEMOCRATS FEEL THEY MUST EMPHASIZE HARMONY...

IT IS TIME TO EXTEND A BIPARTISAN HAND ACROSS THE AISLE--AND WORK WITH OUR REPUBLICAN FRIENDS TO FIND COMMON GROUND!

PARTISANSHIP IS SO DISTASTEFUL!

...WHILE REPUBLICANS REMAIN AS NOISY AND DISSONANT AS EVER, WE'LL VOTE AGAINST ANY PROPOSAL THE DEMOCRATS COME UP WITH UNLESS SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ARE MADE TO APPEASE US!

AND THEN WE'LL STILL VOTE AGAINST IT!

MAINLY, WE JUST HOPE THIS DOESN'T END UP TURNING INTO THE SAME OLD SONG AND DANCE.

HEY GUYS! HERE'S MY TIMID, INCREMENTAL HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL, WHICH I'VE TWISTED INTO KNOTS TO AVOID UNWARRANTED ACCUSATIONS OF "SOCIALISM!"

TOO BAD--SOCIALIST!

JOINK!

much about the two "comedians" in this "theater" troupe, but I am almost certain that they have accomplished nothing on the level of Dancer, failed campaign or no.

And perhaps I'm just dense, but could someone please tell me how these two unprofessional and hateful people spewing whatever popped into their heads onto the stage could in any way shape or form be considered "art" to begin with?

Edith Marie Hurley
Eugene

BABY-FRIENDLY CENTER

Thank you for the recent article (Slant, 1/29) about the PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center. I think it's important that families explore the range of options available for a baby's birth.

In our community, we are fortunate that the freestanding PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center is one option. I

wanted to deliver with a midwife, but I would have been distracted by the clutter of my home and medical nature of the hospital. The Birth Center was a perfect alternative.

I had a wonderful birth experience thanks to the certified nurse midwives, lactation consultants and nurses. I received top-quality, individualized care throughout pregnancy, delivery and postpartum. In an era where families are scattered and women do not regularly share experiences of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding, the Birth Center provided me with knowledge and encouragement through appointments, consultations, and weekly well-baby clinics.

The Birth Center is the only midwifery practice in Oregon to receive the "Baby Friendly" designation from UNICEF and the World Health Organization for its exemplary breastfeeding support. Additionally, the midwives work

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