

SUPPORT OUR COPS

I am responding to the news story (2/12) about the city's funding of renovations to the cop shop. I am a progressive thinking person who believes in human rights. Having said that, I have noticed the animosity toward police that is often sensationalized in your publication.

Our police are no worse, and in many cases mild, compared to other communities. Our revolving-door jail policy is an open invitation for drug and gang related crime. If the police are not properly supported, the ensuing consequences could be grim. There may soon come a time where drive-by shootings will reach our peaceful community, and these people are not exactly marksmen. It seems clichéd to say it but I will anyway: Everybody hates the cops until they need one.

One should remember that we are all just human beings, and that includes police, who deal daily with the darker aspects of our less than civilized species.

Bill Minnick
Springfield

THOUGHTLESS LABEL

In the Slant column Feb. 26 the *Weekly* used the unfortunate phrase "concealed gun nuts." While I understand your point about Sheriff Burger's use of funds, why label people you don't know as nuts? I am generally called a "south Eugene liberal," with an Obama sign in my yard and Kitty Piercy in my heart. I am also a gun owner and have a concealed carry license.

Does *EW* really classify gun owners like Peter DeFazio, Bill Dwyer and me as nuts? Colorful writing has its place, but thought-free labeling is just Limbaughism.

Alan Contreras
Eugene

NO APOLOGIES

Hi, folks. Angie and Russell here from PotPie Theater. Heard of us? If you're *EW* Letters junkies like we are, you might have read Edith Marie Hurley's comments (2/12) regarding a recent performance of ours. For those of you who missed it, her comments were not exactly positive, in particular questioning the artistic content of the show. As we are the sole writers, directors and performers of PotPie Theater, the buck starts and stops here. The vision might not be much to Hurley's liking, but it's pure. And while we regret that she did not care for our performance, we will not apologize for the performance itself.

We do, however, take issue with her suggestion that we are "unprofessional" and "hateful." For the record, Russell is more ticked at being called unprofessional, Angie more at being called hateful. Both of us feel confident that Hurley did not mean exactly what she said, but just in case, we wish to take a moment and say: Hurley? That scene about lesbianism that bothered you? Angie IS a lesbian. In any case, we have several examples of our work on YouTube (including several of the pieces Hurley mentioned in her letter).

Ultimately, we want to thank Hurley for her letter. We feel honored that she made the effort to not only spend some time supporting the local arts but also to get fired up about it enough to write a letter to the

Weekly and would argue that the very fact that she did is the highest compliment an artist can be paid.

Russell Dyball
Angie Riley
PotPie Theater

GLAD YOU ARE HERE

It looks like another health care battle! We've seen the conflicts between Sacred Heart and McKenzie Willamette the past few years. First it was over limiting insurance and then it was the move to Springfield. Now it looks like billboards and newspaper ads competing for Urgent Care.

Many in Eugene were relieved to have local doctors and medical personnel establish a convenient Eugene Urgent Care at 13th and Patterson after Sacred Heart pulled away from its Willamette Street facility. Emergency room care is too expensive and unnecessary for most medical treatment. My grandkids are always having skateboard and bike minor accidents or temperatures that need to be looked at when the family doctor is not available. We don't want a trip to the far side of our neighbor city with crying kids.

The doctors at the new Urgent Care have daily experience hearing patients say "I'm so glad you are here!" and "I can't believe I was helped so fast." So far the average wait to see a doctor is 15 minutes and with no appointment this is a big surprise to patients.

This is an independent alliance of local emergency physicians and other specialty practitioners able to take care of everything from asthma, cuts, high blood pressure and infections to x-rays, rashes, simple fractures and sprains, vomiting, diarrhea and headaches. A flu shot that is recommended yearly is \$5. They also provide physical therapy services.

Most of all, Urgent Care provides urgent care when you need it, where you need it. The clinic will be open 9 am to 9 pm, seven days a week starting March 1.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

LACK OF PĄCZEK

I moved here about six months ago being drawn by the progressive attitudes that are prevalent in the Eugene area. As a proud Polish-American I was disappointed by the lack of pączek, a traditional Fat Tuesday treat for my people, at a local bakery that espouses to be forward thinking and open minded. This made me wonder how progressive the people of Eugene truly are. I am outraged that in such a liberal minded area the traditions and customs of my heritage are grossly ignored and thusly underrepresented.

Dziękować (thank you).
Michael E. Hoekstra
Eugene

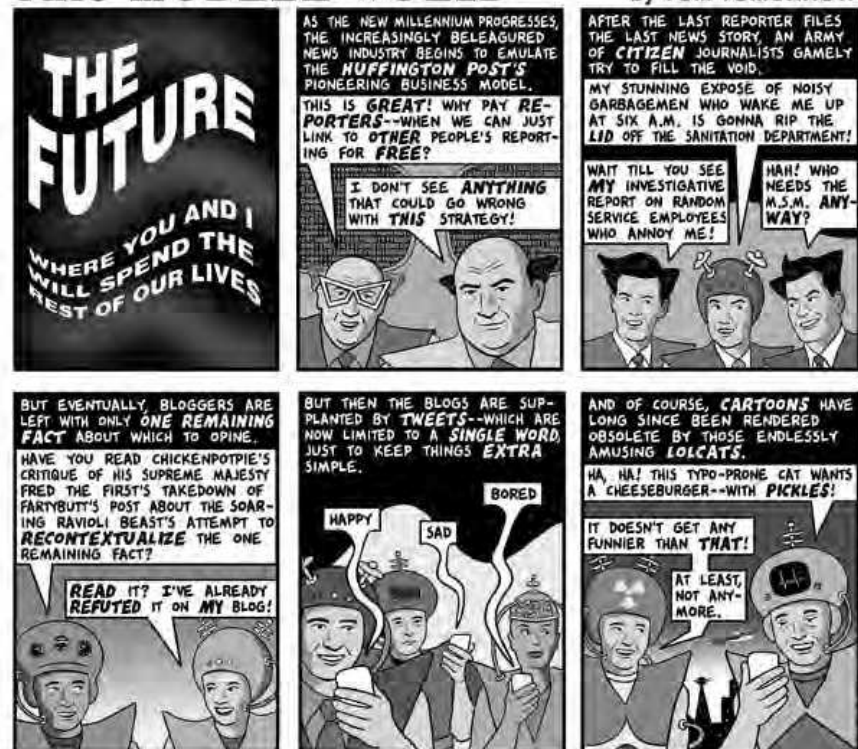
EDITOR'S NOTE: We hear the pastry has in the past been available at other bakeries, including Albertson's.

CAN'T SPEAK FOR HIM

I have never written a letter to *EW*, but after reading the piece by the parents of David Minor (2/19), I feel I have to respond. I knew David since he was in grade school. I always considered him especially bright and driven by purpose. I admired his sincerity and character. David's death was a tragic accident. To the person who wrote

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



in as "the ghost of David Minor," you will never be able to fill his shoes or speak for him from beyond the grave. And for those advocates of helmet laws, common sense cannot be legislated. Yes, helmets are a good idea, but that does not detract from the fact that David's injuries were so severe that a helmet would not have helped.

Droning on about helmet laws is beside the point and does not help anyone affected by the accident to cope with grief. Please, for the sake of setting the record straight and for the sake of healing, let's remember, as John and Susan said, that David Minor was so much more than "the young man who didn't wear his helmet." My heart goes out to his parents. I know I am not the only one who is moved by the ghost bike and wants it to stay.

Tom Baldinger
Eugene

STRANGLING LAND LAWS

Kudos to Jerry Diethelm ("Design Matters," 2/12) for a keen look at HB 2229, the Big Look Task Force's proposal to "undermine" Oregon's land use program.

Certainly the proposed legislation is an underhanded attempt by a committee stacked with a private property rights and development bias to decentralize and deregulate Governor Tom McCall's legacy.

One would expect a reasonable revision of Oregon's land use system to respond to increasing population, M37 and M49 claims, global warming, energy depletion and the economic crisis by strengthening regulatory protections of our natural resources and our farm and forest economies. However, the crafters of HB 2229 believe that growth is inevitable and desirable and can be accomplished by making regulations more "flexible" and less "complex," i.e., by further weakening regulations that presently do not protect our farms, forests and natural areas.

At a House committee hearing on the Big Look bill Feb. 3, an overwhelming majority from all over Oregon exhorted committee members to strengthen, not weaken, our land use protections. Even private property-rights zealots are unhappy with the legislation —because it retains a semblance of regulation.

Fortunately, the committee has said it doesn't like the bill either. At a Feb. 17 work session, members voiced their intent to excise at least those sections clearly intended to strangle the system. Perhaps, in this legislative session, those whom McCall referred to as "the grasping wastrels of the land" will only be grasping at straws.

Robert Emmons
Fall Creek

OUR WEEKLY MEXICAN

I've always liked the "Ask a Mexican" column by Gustavo Arellano, and I guess it's time to come out of the closet and say so publicly. I miss the printed version each week.

A progressive older white woman, I kept quiet when *EW* first carried this provocative column, listening to my allies express outrage and respecting them. But I like the column, I like his style, I like his politics. Yes, it's in-your-face, and different from what we in the '60s would have done, but Señor Arellano is right on, in my opinion. He educates with attitude. Always refreshing.

I can only imagine the economic pressures on alternative newspapers, and the fight for print space in an e-world. But like a lot of your readers, I take a refreshing break from the screen with hard copy newspapers and books. If you must rotate print and web-only columns, why not rotate Arellano with Savage? Now there's an image perhaps only those two could fully appreciate.

Bring back the Mexican! Anyone else agree?

Laurie McClain
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope to bring Gustavo Arellano back in print every week instead of every other week when paper prices drop and the economy perks up. Meanwhile, he can be found every week on our website.

LICENSE TO BEG

It happened in Medford, then Roseburg, and now in Cottage Grove: the prejudicial interference of charitable giving, during an economic recession no less. Poverty is not a crime, and neither should be helping another person. Imagine yourself feeling so hopeless, so beaten down that the self humiliation of standing vulnerably in public for hours in the cold rain with a cardboard