

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Advocates, locally active in Eugene. If you are interested in saving Eugene from economical and environmental disaster please visit www.cascadiaecoadvocates.org and contact Samantha Chirillo.

Laura Perdomo
Eugene

RE: PREDATORY TOWING

The letter written by Jessika Jenson (4/9) is exactly what I went through at Turtles on Willamette Street a couple of months ago. I agree with Jenson that these are hard times, but these people do not care. They are out to make as much money as possible.

It cost me \$250 in cash to get my car back after having dinner. I am now in the process of trying to get my money back and have proof that their signs are not posted properly. I would suggest to anyone who feels they've been wronged by Emerald Valley Towing to file a complaint with the Department of Justice, Consumer Protection Section, and (503) 378-4320. If more people call and complain, maybe we can alert others to this type of business antics.

Debbie Paulson
Eugene

EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE

Since Alan Pittman is so into public disclosure, I wonder if he would be so kind as to publicly disclose where and when he received his law degree. This would help those of us who are not so learned as he to better understand his pontificating about the federal and state public disclosure laws.

While his diatribe (News Briefs, 4/16) was probably satisfying to his rather large ego, I am afraid it is of little probative value on the actual law to which he refers. A five-minute search of the Oregon Revised Statutes on the Internet came up with all the information one might need to determine that the photos that were given to the attorney were exempt from public disclosure due to the pending litigation against the city regarding that matter. See ORS 192.501 (1).

In addition ORS 192.502 (8) prohibits disclosure if federal law or regulations prohibit doing so. Since disclosing medical records to anyone (even his attorney), other than the person to whom they refer is a violation of federal HIPA regulations, [Interim Police Auditor Dawn] Reynolds should not have released the photos without authorization. The attorney knows or should have known that he must obtain a subpoena from the court under rules of discovery to obtain that type of information.

Finally, and this is the most troubling, Reynolds apparently still does not get it, even after being suspended and disciplined by Council. She continues to justify her conduct as the correct response. Perhaps Council needs to have another session with her to reinforce their condemnation of her actions.

Robert Walker
Eugene

DRIVEN TO DESTRUCTION

I was diagnosed as bipolar in the summer of 2005. I was hospitalized eight times within a year and half. Prior to being diagnosed,

I was a noble and law-abiding citizen. I was known for my outgoing personality, kindness and consideration for others. This all changed when I became manic. Paranoia and delusions consumed me. I became so paranoid that I thought my husband was out to kill me for life insurance money. This caused me to hitchhike across the country and ultimately to become homeless.

While I was homeless, I was driven to destruction. I engaged in criminal acts, had unprotected sex and found a new love for crack cocaine. Fortunately, after two months of being missing, I was found at a 7-11 parking lot stripped down naked, masturbating and screaming into thin air at pimps who tried to prostitute me. The police arrested me, and instead of jail, they took me straight to a mental institution. This is where I got my second chance at life. I was stabilized on medication and sent home for recovery.

Today I lead a very fulfilling life. I have a very loving and nurturing relationship with my husband, I work part time, I'm going to school and I'm writing a memoir. I truly believe that if it wasn't for the mental health system that rescued me that at best I would still be that crazy woman wandering the streets that everybody hurries to pass by.

Mechelle Stone
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: A much longer version of this story can be found online this week as a Viewpoint.

MINIMIZING HARM

When the Oregon Department of Agriculture (DoA) first announced that it was going to spray a biological pesticide over 626 acres of southeast Eugene for the invasive gypsy moth, many area residents called Oregon Toxics Alliance. The callers were in need of guidance and representation. In response to community concerns, OTA advocated putting public health and ecosystem protection at the forefront of all decision making.

The beneficial outcome of our involvement was collaboration between OTA, the Southeast Neighborhood Association and DoA to provide comprehensive public information. We also worked together to modify application procedures to minimize pesticide exposure. This is critical for all children and anyone with immune deficiencies, allergies or a chronic respiratory condition. Residents in the spray zone have been mailed a fact sheet with suggestions for protecting health during and after the pesticide application.

OTA's collaborative efforts also helped Eugene School District 4J and the Eugene Christian School set up precautions, including turning off ventilation systems and informing parents about keeping kids safe on the way to school.

OTA used the precautionary principle as a framework to bring the local, state and federal agencies together with local residents to build a better public process. Instead of asking, "How much harm will be allowed?" we asked, "How little harm is possible?"





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