

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

U.S. Courthouse, the idea holds at least a little merit. In terms of capital expenditures, I personally have the most affection for the other half of the Amazon headwaters, but if the city is going to expand municipal office-space, already existing (and actually quite nearby) infrastructure is really a decent compromise.

\$16 million is way too much for the building, though. Ruiz can prove himself a responsible steward and advocate on behalf of the city by getting a more reasonable deal.

Gordon Kenyon
Eugene

SKewed PERSPECTIVE

Lincoln Perry meant no harm, as far as anyone knows, but he was the first African-American actor to become a millionaire, and this was back in the 1930s.

His screen name was Stepin Fetchit, a racist caricature advertised at the time as, "the laziest man in the world." When his films are shown today, his portions are usually edited out.

EW columnist Sally Sheklow may be just as innocent, but she legitimizes an equally harmful stereotype.

Of course, the stereotype is not about being a lesbian. A lesbian is a woman who loves women romantically. Why do they do this? Contemporary science and psychology are undecided, but it doesn't really matter. People should be free to do anything they want so long as it doesn't hurt anyone. And as John Lennon once said, there's little enough love in the world.

Someday, hopefully, this level of tolerance will be universal. Someday, the love in Sheklow's perspective will be quietly appreciated.

Meanwhile, the hate in her perspective is hurting lesbians most of all because it feeds an unfortunately widespread stereotype: that being a lesbian necessarily involves hating men.

The lesbians of this town deserve a better role model.

Steve Downey
Eugene

BURNING YEARNINGS

Seneca biomass burner should not be permitted.

Oregon gets 62 percent of its electricity from hydroelectric dams. Do we even need the other 38 percent? Consider how much of the electricity used is unnecessary waste. The wealthier citizens among us tend to use a lot more electricity, heating oversized homes to 80 degrees, washing clothes after a single wearing, etc. This drives up the cost of electricity for the average citizen and leads to the use of polluting power sources, such as Seneca's proposed biomass burner.

If the proposed burner were built, it would burn forest materials to subsidize the wasteful habits of a small percentage of Eugene's citizens. Not only would this pollute Eugene's already polluted and stagnant air with toxins and particulates, but it would also disrupt forest habitat and rob our forests of nutrients they need.

The timber barons like to try to scare us



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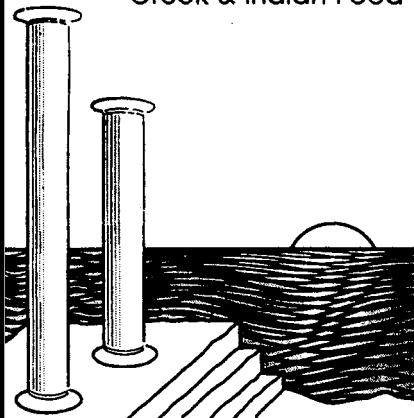
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