

of the more difficult places to work as an officer because the community doesn't support them.

Let's say I'm at the grocery store and the clerk is really rude to me. Do you think I'm going to say, "I hate all grocery store clerks! They're all a bunch of jerks!"? Absolutely not! Police officers are people too. With husbands and wives and children, grandchildren too. Eugene police officers actually have one of the most difficult jobs. How many of you would be willing to go to work every day, not knowing exactly what the situation might be? And having to risk your own life for the sake of someone else's?

I assume that you know all "hippies and activists" in the Eugene community because you seem to think that none of them are dangerous. I came across an article from the Democracy Now website dated June 11, 2007, stating that activist Daniel McGowan had been sentenced to seven years in prison for arson, which the judge said was an act of terrorism. Some might argue that this type of "activist" is extremely dangerous.

Mary Mainenti
Eugene

MORPHING MEDICINE

Your article on doctors communicating with patients by email was interesting. I have been exchanging emails with traveling patients for years. Granted, it is easy to do in a narrow medical field (travel medicine) and in a small office. All of the extra software and privacy issues are solved with already existing programs and personal email systems with security, passwords and firewalls set up on either end as usual. With large groups it becomes very complicated. Unfortunately, medicine is morphing towards large groups almost exclusively.

If someone emails me with questions, there would be some limitations. Questions should be short, simple and straightforward and usually relate to preparations for travel outside the U.S. They should be couched in general terms and not specific to a person's medical condition. Answers may also be fairly general.

I can do more for established traveling patients with existing medical records, but I can also be helpful in a general way for others, especially if planning a new trip. Some other questions may also be answered. Participants will have to understand that responses may be more general to adhere to standards of medical care and to limit liability that may be incurred by giving medical advice for a patient we have not yet seen. We currently do not charge for answering emails sent under these guidelines.

Travelers seen in the office are managed differently. I make sure there is good understanding of the issues and I am usually able to spend as much time with the traveler as needed to accomplish this for a flat fee.

John D. Wilson, M.D.
The Travel Clinic
Eugene

CULTURALLY IRRELEVANT

Let them build a new cop shop as far out as we can get them so that the EPD can become as geographically irrelevant to the city of Eugene as they already are culturally irrelevant to the community. When they stop fucking with me on my bike and start dealing with the folks responsible for breaking into my house and drinking the milk in my refrigerator because they're high on something they bought a few blocks away but have no food or money, perhaps then we could let them park their cars closer to the city core.

I would like to see businesses that are open past 5 pm replace any of the dead blocks downtown. Among the banks, city buildings and pits, there is more dark space than activity after business hours downtown.

Give the police a simple but functional building far away and have a few small stations in town, one downtown open 24/7. Fort Collins, Colo., police department might be a good example to learn from — they have a massive building way the hell out. Ask them what the consequences were for them.

The money left over from building or retrofitting an appropriately budgeted space

for our city police should be used to help those with no homes find helpful, no contingency shelter. Over a pint at Tiny Tavern one night, a woman from my neighborhood told me to buy a pit bull to protect my house. Another man at a Whiteaker community meeting told the audience that he consciously chose to be homeless for part of his life and wanted "homeless rights" for those living on the streets.

If I have to protect my property with an attack dog because the police have failed my neighborhood, then they are irrelevant, and it doesn't matter where their shop is.

Isaac McCoy-Sulentic
Eugene

A NEW LANE

The following is a red alert for property owners, environmentalists, bicyclists, walkers, nature lovers and so on: Lane Transit District, LTD, is becoming more and more determined to develop an EmX dedicated lane, with stations along Amazon Creek from the intersection of West 13th Avenue and Arthur Street going to Bertelson Road.

This project would necessitate the taking of large quantities of property along Amazon Creek, either through sale or eminent domain. LTD's objective and the reason for all this future destruction and chaos is for them to have as straight a line as possible from the downtown terminal to Danebo Road.

The demolition of housing where Amazon Creek and West 13th intersect is the first thing that would occur. Amazon Creek's banks are unstable and riddled with tunnels and warrens from rodent activity. On the south bank are restricted wetlands. Amazon Creek is a Class I waterway with a minimum 50 foot setback, which would warrant the taking of even more property. Parts of the bike path would be destroyed and, when rebuilt, would have diesel fumes and noise in its proximity. As of now, the creek is a non-motorized byway. And what about the critters that live along the creek?

Let's not forget what happened to 286 trees on Pioneer Parkway for an EmX

extension. The public was not informed beforehand because no one asked about the trees, according to Mark Pangborn, LTD general manager. If you are concerned, contact LTD and our City Council, a co-signee onto any project.

Pauline Hutson and
Jozef Siekiel-Zdzienicki
Eugene

CIVILIAN VS. CITIZEN

In Alan Pitman's news brief ("Taser Probe," 5/7), he refers to the CRB as the "Citizens Review Board." Did he err or was he making a suggestion to the readers and political leaders? The dictionary is an excellent place to try to distinguish among civilian, civil, citizen, military, etc.

Ed Wilson
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: The letter writer is correct. Different cities use different words, but our CRB uses the word "civilian," which is more specific and exclusive. Active military and police personnel can be citizens, but they cannot be civilians. So by definition, police officers cannot serve on our CRB. Even "citizen" is a loaded word these days, as it excludes our many undocumented residents.

INCOMPETENT INSULTS

Sally Sheklow's parody of Faulkner (4/23) was close enough to the mark to make me laugh out loud. Her point about Sam Adams was a little hard to follow, but I think I agree with it too. As another longtime Eugene lesbian feminist, I can say that while I don't always agree with her, Sheklow is a very good representative of my community's perspective on life around here, and we certainly need it in the paper.

In a letter (5/7), Steve Downey calls her a man-hater and uses a Stepin Fetchit analogy which is not only outrageous but intellectually incompetent. His complaint is actually with Sheklow's feminism, not her lesbianism. Well, in my experience, every feminist will eventually be called a man-hater, but that won't stop us. Pointing out sexism is not hateful; it's speaking truth to power. Downey is the one feeding the stereotype, not Sheklow.

Lorraine Ironplow
Eugene

Join Us!

June 3rd 2009

Downtown Eugene - Public Library

**Come talk to us
about Housing & Community Needs**

Eugene and Springfield are creating a new 5-year plan for federal Housing & Urban Development funds.
Learn more about Housing, Homelessness, Economic and Community Development trends.

Wednesday, June 3rd
Bascom-Tykeson room of the Downtown Library
4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Share your thoughts and suggestions for the new plan.

For more information and to take our online survey go to: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/hudconplan>




Open House Join Us!



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Learn to prune and care for young public trees in your neighborhood by becoming a City of Eugene Volunteer Tree Steward.

- Create attractive neighborhoods
- Promote stewardship
- Improve air and water quality
- Strengthen neighborhood identity
- Provide homes for birds and other wildlife

Training sessions are free in return for 20 hours of hands-on field work in our city's Urban Forest.

For more information, or to register for June sessions, please call Rick Olkowski, Tree Stewards Coordinator, at 541.682.4831.
rick.g.olkowski@ci.eugene.or.us


