

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'm not out of the woods yet. I'm still waiting for the "cancer free" signs, but with the love and familial support from the people in communities like Eugene and Rockwall, my healing is advancing quickly. I also have to thank the great folks at the Willamette Valley Cancer Center and Oregon Urology Institute. These communities and institutions are an inspiration to us all, and I can't thank them enough.

Mark Zolun
Eugene

RECESSION RESTAURANTS

Here in Eugene, dozens of restaurants have closed in the last couple of years. The restaurants that remain have had to adapt to a very harsh economic climate. When times are tight, the luxury of going out to dinner is one of the first things people cut. Local restaurant menus have changed, store hours or even days have been cut, staffs are smaller and owners are cutting costs anywhere they can to keep their businesses open. But we as customers should be helping to keep our favorite restaurants open as well. Here are a few suggestions on what we can do to help out.

1. Keep going out to your favorite restaurants. Even going out for appetizers or drinks helps, and most restaurants have a more affordable lunch menu.

2. Make reservations (even last minute). With many restaurants short-staffed, knowing what kind of business in coming is invaluable. Backup staff can be called and more food prepped ahead of time. Large parties should always call ahead.

3. Be understanding. Changes to menus or hours may be disappointing, but may have been necessary. If you do have to wait for a table, be glad the restaurant is still in demand. If there is an unexpected wait for your food or a drink, give the staff the benefit of the doubt that they are trying to create the best possible offering.

4. Feedback is one of the most important tools in the service industry. When informed, any restaurant's staff will do what they can to maintain satisfactory food and service and improve issues brought to their attention.

5. A good mood and smile are contagious. Being the customer to make your server's day just might make your day.

Rigel Ross
Eugene

NO MERIT BADGE

Dear Eve Cienfuegos (letters, 7/16), I guess the Great Council of Hippies is going to have to rescind your hippie merit badge. Instead of us continuously demeaning each other based on matters of choice, and rather than dividing us into stereotypical groups, it would be far more productive to concentrate on big issues like the environment, war, hunger, human rights, etc. These things solved would plant the seeds of a trickle up or down (depending on your perspective) model of respect for life and nature in all people.

I blame the indoctrination of our people by a shallow and greedy hierarchy for our lack of respect for each other and our planet. I thought the first tenets of being a hippie were that you don't judge people, you are non-violent, and you believe in love, peace and happiness. I'm guilty of saying and thinking



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