

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

extend Fair Family love to Jack, Sarah, Daniel, Holly, Jane, Aria and all of Kevin's wide circle of family and friends. We know right now he's dancing at the biggest Fair of all and smiling that Kevin smile.

Norma Sax
Oregon Country Fair

ATTACK ON GAYS

Tonight (10/24), my partner and I were walking through Eugene and had a very interesting confrontation. We ran into bigots who decided to discriminate against us because we were two men holding hands. We walked past them for the first time, ignoring their ignorant comments about our sexuality. However, we had to walk past them a second time in order to get to where we were going, and they attacked us. It is instances like this that happen on a daily basis. Ignorance causes us to be discriminated against on a daily basis. Frankly, my partner and I are sick of the remarks that we get walking down the street, but to be attacked by 10 straight men is over the edge. The fact that this happened in Eugene is inconceivable. A liberal town that accepts almost anyone. My partner and I are planning on pressing charges against the attackers; however, the Eugene Police Department cannot do anything about it because there are no severe markings of attack on either of us. We are sick of being discriminated against and will rise in revolt if nothing is done about it. Sen. Wyden, Sen. Merkley and Mayor Piercy have been informed of this issue. Let's make sure that discrimination like this does not happen again in Eugene.

Derek Nix
Eugene

TIME TO LEAVE

Officer Judd Warden, the same officer who tased Ian Van Ornum, was just revealed as the officer who tased a non-English-speaking UO exchange student in his own apartment. Warden was also named Officer of the Year. With the Eugene Police Department asking for more officers to carry Tasers, all I can say is, I am moving to Portland!

Christopher Hughes
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: PDX cops also have their issues. You might Google "Portland police brutality" before packing your bags.

CONTEST FARCE

So, the Eugene Weekly holds a music contest that turns out to be run by the sales and marketing department, and lo and behold, the contest turns out to be a farce. We entered the Next Big Thing contest thinking it would be a good way to let some people hear our music that otherwise wouldn't. Within a few days our song "Parade" rises to the top of the list. We then decide that maybe there's a chance for us to win and start a heavy campaign to our fans and friends to get the votes that we're told we need to win. It works; we spend two months in the top five voted songs, gather over 1000 votes more than any other song, and end up in the top spot when the voting is over. Then, we're told that judges will be deciding the winners. The vote counts and ratings didn't matter

in the end as the winners and finalists are chosen and we, along with other top voted acts such as Don't Encourage the Wind, Crooked River, Steve and the Make-Believes, Ingredients the Band, Opal Creek, Fancy Bandits, EWAG and Go Engine Now, are all excluded from the finalists list and the upcoming compilation CD of the top 15 songs. If votes didn't matter, why did the Weekly encourage us to get our fans to vote for more than two months? And why didn't they tell us that judges would ultimately have the final say, not the voters? The Eugene Weekly has stated that they made over \$13,000 on this contest. It is hard not to think that money was the main driving force, not finding the fans' favorite songs.

Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who participated. There was a lot of great music in this contest; it's just unfortunate that the EW so blatantly ignored the consensus of the fans.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Though the judging criteria were spelled out in the rules, we will certainly take your feedback into account for our next contest. Our sales manager says that EW spent more money than sponsors gave on the contest and that after CD production, mastering and promotion expenses are paid, artists and composers will get 20 percent of CD compilation sales.

KIDS NOT THAT EXPENSIVE

I read your recent article (10/2) on the state of foster care budgets in Oregon with great interest and increasing frustration. While I appreciate the work these foster parents are doing, some of the numbers really surprised me. There are numerous quotes throughout the article about "not being in it for the money" and complaints that foster care funding doesn't cover the real costs of raising a child.

Now, I have no experience with older children, but as a mother of two kids under age 4, I have a pretty good grasp of what it costs to raise little ones. I (and five of my friends whom I've discussed the article with) feel that \$400/month is more than enough to meet all the needs of a young child, and the recent increase to \$640/month seems insane (and yet, is still seen as "only cover(ing) the most basic of budgets").

The increase is explained as being given to cover clothing and diapers. \$240/month? I don't spend that in a year on clothes for each of my kids. "Big ticket" items like highchairs can be found for \$20, and decent second-hand bikes are readily available for \$50 to \$100. Pizza for a large family costs \$100? Are they going to PRI? Try Pizza Pipeline or Little Caesars instead.

I guess it makes me a "conservative," but I don't want (and can't afford) an increase in my taxes. My family makes a very modest income, and we make it work, without feeling deprived in any way. Perhaps some of these foster parents could benefit from a budgeting class.

Katie Aaberg
Eugene

CELEBRATING FETISHES

So the Weekly has decided to celebrate fetishes (cover story, 10/8). The last time I heard, a fetish is an obsessive-compulsive disorder, a serious mental illness. Your

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