

compulsive disorder” and implied that such occurrences as Mayan and/or Aztec human sacrifices and atrocities such as those perpetrated by Adolf Hitler were fetishes.

First and foremost let’s talk about that second part: Human sacrifice is not a fetish. Typically it is part of an elaborate religious ritual, albeit frightening. If rituals were fetishes, then weddings, birthdays and many Catholic masses would have to be included in that category. What Hitler did was not a fetish, either. It was an atrocity. Slaughtering and oppressing people is being a sociopath, not having a fetish.

Fetish isn’t equal to OCD, a mental illness in which “repetitive, intrusive thoughts (obsessions) and ritualistic behaviors (compulsions) designed to fend off those thoughts interfere significantly with an individual’s functioning.” If you don’t believe me, check out the 2009 *Psychology* textbook by Schacter, Gilbert & Wegner, pages 506-7. A fetish is a preferred act or item employed in consensual sex and/or sex play to enhance the experience and gratification. Needless to say, making the statement that fetish = OCD is erroneous. It goes without saying that comparing the acts of fetishists to human sacrifice, slavery and mass genocide is absurd.

*Tahni Nikitins
Creswell*

UNDERWHELMED

Regarding Jean Tate’s new Republican-loaded public safety group: Color me underwhelmed.

Let’s face reality: Until we objectively study what the public really wants, these money measure concoctions will keep missing the mark. This committee is just a new bunch of insular people sitting around the same old table trying to guess how to persuade voters to pay higher taxes — while being fed a steady diet of “facts” by the sheriff and DA.

Tate and her fellow esteemed citizens have no more in common with the average person than do the mayors and councilors that comprised previous committees, or the county commissioners themselves, for that matter. In fact, the more prestigious and “special” the members are, the more likely they are to be out of touch with the typical voter.

Some people appear to put a lot of stock in “credibility” garnered from this group’s so-called independence, and the members’ status in the community. But it’s naïve to think that voters will say, gosh, if Dave Frohnmayer thinks this new tax is good for my family and me, then count me in.

That’s why it’ll probably fail just like the other 13 tax attempts. Meanwhile, we’ll lose more precious time as the county edges toward bankruptcy and those infamous 84 jail beds become the least of our problems.

I hope our county commissioners don’t just sit back and rely on this well-intentioned little group to save the day. We need a better plan.

*Mia Nelson
Eugene*

SWINDLED SPIRITS

In light of recent events in Arizona whereby a New Age phony was selling and exploiting a Native American sweat lodge ceremony, of which three people died and 20 or so were hospitalized: People need to stop exploiting Native American culture and stop playing with the sacred because this is what happens: People get hurt.

Anyone charging money is a fraud! Certainly Eugene has more than its share of New Age wannabe “shamans,” exploiters and charlatans. What happened in Arizona is again a warning to all New Age cultural exploiters. Please stop tinkering around with Native American spirituality and start respecting the sacred. The Arizona sweat lodge tragedy, while unfortunate on one hand, was poetic justice on the other! People cannot buy the Creator’s blessings, or its power, by buying ceremony or “shaman training courses,” they must be earned!

If people are promoting “shamanism” as “a beautiful way of life” and a cute little warm, fuzzy depiction of “shamanism,” they are seriously misguided and/or trying to scam you out of your money. No self-respecting “shaman” would sell ceremony or spiritual teachings. People who sell “shamanic training classes” won’t tell people the ugly side of “shamanism,” or as I say, “the darker side of the light,” because if they did they would lose business.

So watch out for those “How to be a shaman” classes: They just might sell you enough rope to hang yourself!

*Thomas Lightning Bolt
Eugene*

BAN TOGETHER

After reading the open letter of apology to victims of allegedly unwarranted Taser (10/29), the thought hit me that the citizens of Eugene could take the matter into their own hands: develop an initiative to ban the use of Tasers within city limits. Whether it passes or not, it would create a healthier dialogue than what is (not) going on right now and may lead to a more compassionate way to do law enforcement.

*Crale Strampler
Corvallis*

NOT SO SIMPLE

Peter Bours’ recent plea for the sympathy of *EW* readers (letters, 11/05) was an embarrassment to the medical profession. A local medical laboratory decided that it would no longer perform lab services for his abortion clinic. For most doctors, this would be the end of the matter, but not for Bours.

In his letter to *EW*, Bours claimed that the laboratory was “allowing religious institutions to control a significant portion of the health care market,” prioritizing “dogma over patient care.” He went on to pitch his website and pat himself on the back for “my 40 years of practice.”

Painting those who object to his business as “religious” is intellectually stunted. The laboratory made their choice according to their own mission statement. You may disagree, but at least you know where they stand. You’re free to get your test results elsewhere, just as NAVS and

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