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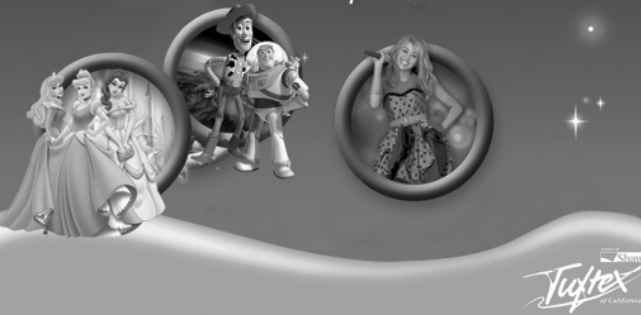
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

of their undergraduate education. The Johnson Hall administration has stepped up to the challenge recently, meeting with students and taking sincere steps towards a meaningful solution.

Let's hope that the university community and the Political Science Department realize what is at stake before the UO loses an exceptional teacher.

*Myles Couch
Eugene*

HICKS WAS A DICK

I was a longtime, big-time fan of Dan Hicks, had all his albums and wore them out. Several years ago, in 1994, he came to Newport for a show at the Performing Arts Center. I bought tickets the day they went on sale and thus had front-row seats. Imagine my distress when he stumbled onto the stage two hours late and began berating the lighting man to turn the spot and stage lights down, then off, until the stage was so dark we could barely see his face from our front row seats. When someone mentioned that fact (OK, maybe it was me) he got furious, began cursing and unzipping his fly, then dragged his private parts out and began to wave them at the audience (which did contain some children, BTW), saying "So ya want to see me? Here, is that good enough?" or words to that effect. I was not trying to be a heckler. I just felt like we deserved to see where the music was coming from at a live performance. Call me crazy. If it was Leon Redbone, I probably would have kept quiet.

All I can say is, 16 years later, the scar on my psyche hasn't disappeared, and as much as I used to love his music, I don't think I could enjoy his show even if he's lightened up on the booze and drugs. I'm actually a little surprised, after the way he dissed Newport, that he has been scheduled for three shows in Oregon. I guess everybody has forgotten, but unfortunately I never will.

*Mike Fulmor
Yachats*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dan Hicks is booked in Eugene Saturday, May 15, at The Shedd.

CREATIVE CROWD

I've been following the story about how the Eugene police chief wants another million dollars to purchase more Tasers to shock our sleeping students and environmentally aware protestors. But having made many long stroller walks on foot throughout Eugene with my toddler son most everyday, I have yet to feel threatened by the seemingly imagined "menacing thugs" the cops and cloistered rich people complain about allegedly inhabiting downtown.

I have witnessed several meek and polite, downtrodden people holding signs that say, "Need Socks" and "Anything Helps." I have encountered a gang of pre-teen, female skateboarders with multi-colored Manic Panic streaks in their adorable punk haircuts. I've seen many charming kids in goofy clothing, those trademark Eugene layers, maybe a studded belt from Hot Topic.



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