

WOLF PLAN VIOLATED

Ranchers are crying wolf again. Seventy years ago ranchers and government trappers exterminated wolves from Oregon. Their tolerance is no different today, and history is repeating itself. In response to six cows allegedly killed by wolves, nine kill permits were issued to ranchers, and federal aerial gunners are trying to shoot two wolves from helicopters. In spite of the fact that wolves have not been seen near livestock and no further depredations have occurred, the illegal kill orders have twice been extended and the kill area increased to 70 square miles.

The Oregon Wolf Plan requires ranchers to exhaust nonlethal deterrents and to take steps to avoid attracting wolves before killing wolves. This is not happening. Piles of cow carcasses invite wolves and other predators, and steps to protect livestock are not being taken. Ranchers are not upholding their part of the bargain. ODFW is not only letting them get away with it; they are complicit in violating the Wolf Plan by prematurely issuing kill orders. Indiscriminately taking out bodies to appease bullying ranchers is not going to resolve conflicts. Good husbandry and nonlethal deterrents, not politics, are the keys to coexistence and conflict resolution.

Sally Mackler
Predator Defense
Oregon Carnivore Coordinator
Eugene

LIGHT MY FIRE

Two folks, one a 10-year-old, wrote (7/17) with concerns about smoking, drinking and littering promoted by the cover of the *EW* Summer Guide. You suggested in your editor's note under Wayne Taubenfeld's letter that parents should make kids play out in the front yard while they enjoy a smoke and a beer in the back. Too bad you didn't practice what you preached and put a picture of playing kids on the front page and your questionably appropriate "adult entertainment" pic where it belonged — buried somewhere in the back pages.

Hey, now that I'm considerably holier than thou, I can go smoke up some hot dawgs, peruse the saucy back pages (and frequent cheesy back cover ads) of your mag, let the grass grow and the kids play unsupervised out front. Glad you approve. Hey, maybe *Fahrenheit 451* works and I can use those sheets you print to light up my cooking fire before the kids come running round the corner.

Ethen Perkins
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Point taken. But hmmm, wasn't that the issue with folks playing Frisbee on the cover?

LET'S GET VERTICAL

It's been awhile since the pit downtown has been in the news. Some people want housing, some retail stores, some parking and some a park.

Why can't we have all of them? We can build a parking garage in the pit, have retail stores on ground level, build a building that gives room for trees, grass and open space on the east or west end of the property, have modestly priced

apartments and high end suites at the top.

I know that many Eugeneans don't want skyscrapers, but especially in downtown Eugene, we need to shed the '60s and build for the 21st century.

A lot of trouble could have been avoided with the June 1, 1996, debacle (tree-sitting protest) if only three trees were cut to create a four-story building instead of cutting six trees to create a two-story building.

The time has come that Eugene use vertical space and not extend the urban growth boundary.

Jon D. Palma
Eugene

TOKEN ACTIONS

Three reasons I'm voting "none of the above," not for Peter DeFazio's reelection.

- DeFazio is chair of the House Transportation Committee's subcommittee on highways. He makes nice noises about better trains but also pushes highway expansion even though we are past peak oil and peak traffic. In 1998, Clinton's highway bill had more than \$100 billion for roads (with a small amount for transit). In 2005, Bush's bill had more than \$200 billion for roads. Obama and DeFazio want about \$500 billion for transportation, mostly for new and expanded roads.

- DeFazio hopes to designate the Devil's Staircase Wilderness, a largely inaccessible area that escaped clearcutting due to convoluted topography. Meanwhile, he wants accelerated logging for "forest biofuels" that threatens our air and water with massive deforestation. A small, token "wilderness" designation is a nice gesture, but the real issue is the new threat of forest liquidation for forest biofuels.

- DeFazio opposed Cheney's invasion of Iraq but in more recent public events has suggested the war was legal because Congress authorized it, which ignores the Nuremberg Code, the Genocide Convention and other standards created by the United States to prevent "aggressive war." Politicians are not against war if they vote to fund it.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

EUGENE NOT SO COOL

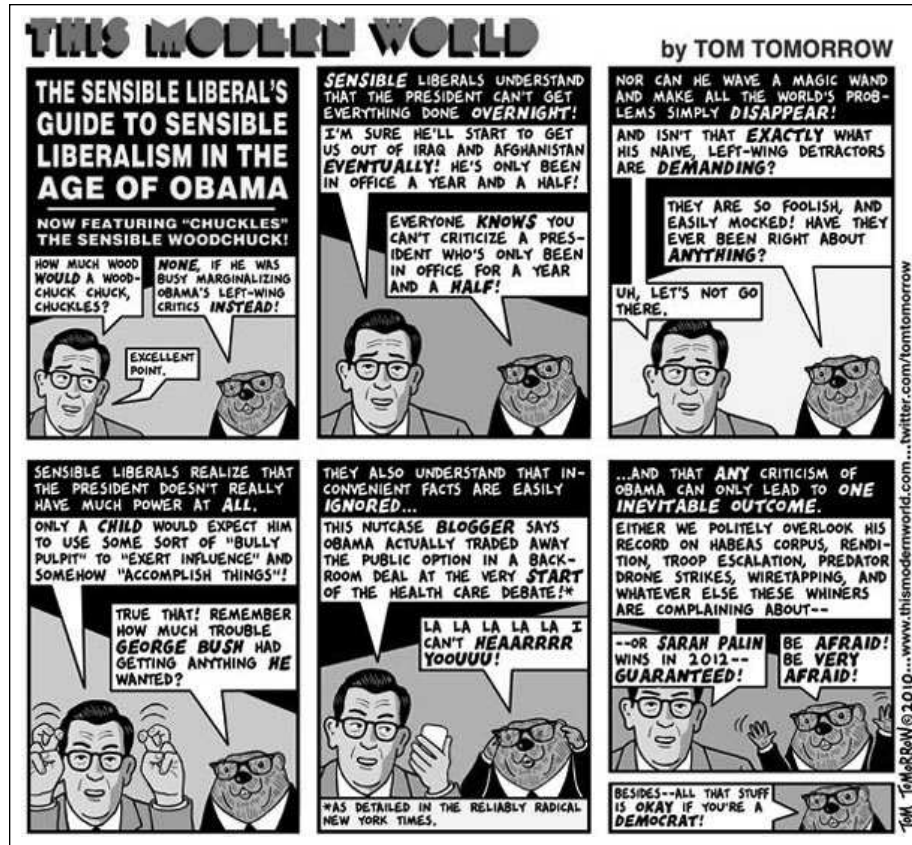
After recently moving here from Idaho, it seemed like a nice change. I found some people who can hold down a conversation that's not about hunting or fishing. But this city is not nearly as cool as people think it is.

Why are there a million police cars patrolling everywhere? Is there a lot of crime here to justify this expense to us taxpayers, or is Lane County just using traffic citations to raise money for itself?

I got pulled over on the Beltline, and the officer cited me for "improper exhaust system." The officer apparently was able to hear my truck drive by and diagnose the exhaust system from the side of the road before pulling me over and creating an actual safety hazard with our vehicles on the shoulder of the Beltline.

My problem aside, this city that prides itself on being liberal, maybe being a little chill, well, it's really not all that chill.

I think the local municipalities could drastically cut down on their police forces



and save a bunch of money, with almost no impact on the community except maybe fewer traffic tickets.

Jack Schaefer
Eugene

A MILLION PROJECTS

Ever wonder what we could do with one million piles of \$1 million?

According to most estimates, including the counter at <http://costofwar.com> we passed the \$1 trillion dollar mark this past Memorial Weekend. That's \$1 trillion spent on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars since 2001.

If we had set our priorities differently, what could we have done with that money? We could have funded one million projects with \$1 million each! That's a lot of funding for a lot of projects. I wonder how many jobs we could have created. Split evenly among all our 50 states, we could have given \$1 million to each of 20,000 projects in Oregon! Divided equally among all counties, Lane County could have funded 555 projects with \$1 million each! We could have given all 134 public schools in Lane County each \$1 million, and still had enough money to fund 421 other Lane County projects with \$1 million each!

When will we decide to alter our funding priorities?

Rees Maxwell
Eugene

UNINTENDED OUTCOME

David Delmar's Viewpoint (6/13) was an eloquent argument for retaining professor De Bevoise on the UO Political Science faculty based on his teaching excellence. Delmar didn't mention the professor's publication record. In deciding on retention, most faculty are convinced that they can be more objective in evaluating a colleague's publications than his/her teaching prowess. ("Publish or perish" is the usual shorthand phrase.)

A decision to give important weight to student judgments in this matter could

well result in raising students to near equal partnership in running the university. I feel the visceral pull of such a democratic ideal. Yes! Speed the day! Isn't the university a "teaching institution"? Then again, it does raise some issues:

Imaging the heavy responsibilities UO students (which ones? who chooses? tenure?) would have to assume. Imagine what would happen to UO funding. Imagine the status of a UO degree nationally (unless most universities followed suit). Imagine the profile of subsequent faculty hires, etc., i.e., all the unintended consequences.

Don MacQueen
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Instructors are not usually evaluated based on publication records as are tenure-track professors. Instructors are paid only to teach, while professors are paid to research and teach.

A LITTLE DIGNITY, PLEASE

First off, was reporter Alan Pittman stoned when he wrote (6/17) his "Urban Renewal Update"? The piece is just garbled.

Second, why are people in Eugene so damned excited about Voodoo Donuts when we already have a much cooler local donut shop with much better donuts? Have some dignity, people of Eugene, and spend your donut dollars at Holy Donut. There's even a courtyard, for frack's sake.

Finally, what the hell am I so pissed off about?

Timothy Shaw
Eugene

TOP-LEVEL ULTIMATE

I second Pete Sorenson's kudos (letters, 6/17) to Eli Friedman for winning the Callahan Award at this year's college championships, and his reminder of the strong local presence the sport of Ultimate has. I think he got a bit over-zealous on the local links, though. Contrary to his assertion, the sport was invented in 1968 by a group of New Jersey high school kids. A quick check of the USA Ultimate