

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eugene a better place to live for families and everyone else.

Asha Logan
Eugene

LANDLORD SIGNS

Kudos to Chuck Areford for checking up on the West 11th businesses supposedly opposing EmX. I already knew that popular opposition to the West Eugene EmX was a tiny fraction of what the “No Build” loudmouths would have us believe, but Mr. Areford confirmed something that I suspected: that only a few of the West 11th businesses sporting “No Build” signs actually oppose the EmX project, since it was the landlords, not the businesses, who put up the signs.

This handful of opposing businesses and property owners who have been spending their money on frivolous lawsuits and a breathtakingly extravagant disinformation campaign have only one thing on their minds: manipulating public opinion and the democratic process so that they get what they want, and the hell with everybody else. Don’t fall for it.

Elizabeth Henning
Eugene

SO SMUG AND MEAN

As a frequent reader and admirer of Dan Savage’s writing, and as a member of no religious group, I was nevertheless struck by the irony of the idiotic, smug and mean-spirited April 28 cover illustration depicting Savage in the classic image of Jesus or maybe a Christian monk.

Giggle, giggle.

I know it feels clever — in a junior-high, “we’re really gonna piss ‘em off with this” way — to present a cover whose impact relies wholly on its ability to offend and hurt one group of people at the pleasure of another group, but I long for the day when the leadership at the *Weekly* is able to resist this urge and rely more often on genuine wit and cleverness.

Savage’s work succeeds largely because he can be outraged, hilarious and powerfully assertive without being gratuitously mean. One of his core messages seems to be “don’t hurt people for fun, unless they’re into that sort of thing, and even then be sure you have a pre-arranged safety word.” In the insightful and informative piece teased by the cover illustration, writer Shannon Finnell relies heavily on an endorsement

of Savage’s ethics by a Lutheran pastor. Yet the honchos at the *Weekly* still felt it necessary to rely on a particularly tired and brutish illustration technique whose only satirical “oomph” comes from its ability to offend Christians and entertain others who want to laugh at Christians.

Dan Savage deserves better. Shannon Finnell deserves better. Although you appear not to know it, *you* deserve better.

I know from a long career of writing and editing for print that it’s much harder to be truly witty and clever than it is to be dully smug and mean, but I think it would be worth your effort. If I knew what my pre-arranged safety word was with the *Weekly*’s leadership, I would be saying it now.

Kevin Miller
Eugene

HE DESERVES BETTER

I was shocked to find in *EW* only a casual mention of EPD officer Chris Kilcullen’s death Friday, April 22, at the hands of a motorist. I read through the April 28 *EW* several times before finally spotting a one-paragraph reference to the shooting of Kilcullen on page 10 in the “Slant.” Even this mention was on the smarmy side. About Officer Kilcullen, a 12 year veteran of EPD who had received over 85 commendations among many other awards for distinguished service to our community, *EW* said: “We hear from many directions that Officer Kilcullen was a thoughtful and compassionate public servant with a high degree of personal integrity.” Maybe I’m paranoid, but “we hear” seems to reduce Kilcullen’s positive character to nothing more than rumor. Then, with characteristic opportunism, *EW* uses Kilcullen’s death to promote gun control and the Million Mom March.

Officer Chris Kilcullen deserves better than a footnote. This should have been your cover story, and, failing that, at least you should have printed a full-length article honoring him. I hope that in the next issue of *EW* you will do the right thing.

Toni Hanner
Eugene

EDITOR’S NOTE: Our mission as an alternative newsweekly is to cover news and culture that the other media are ignoring. We intend no disrespect to the memory of Chris Kilcullen. His story is being well told.

SODOM & SANTORUM

The April 28 cover story demonstrated that *EW* will publish its syndicated

Mary Walston for 4J School Board

We are all supporting Mary Walston for Position 7 on the 4J School Board. Join us in voting for her in the May 17 election.

Organizations and Groups
Eugene Education Association
Stand for Children
4J Administrators Group

Val Hoyle, *State Representative*
Judy Volta, *Mayor of Coburg*
John Simpson, *EWEB Commissioner*

Eugene City Councilors
Mike Clark
Pat Farr
Chris Pryor

4J Board Members
Jennifer Geller
Alicia Hays
Anne Marie Levis
Jim Torrey

4J Budget Committee Members
Betsy Boyd
Shirley Clark
Debra Smith

Community Members

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Kathy Arendsen
Ruth Maura Atcherson
Robert Beal
Kathleen Bear
Brad Black
Patty Boyle
Cathy Briner
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