



BOBBY D TURNS 70

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Times they are-a-changin'
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

will and actually can recover salmon, restore habitat, enhance communities and gives back more than we take.

Sheena Moore
Eugene

HEROIN HILL

To the woman who said how heartless it was to remove an illegal camp under the Franklin Bridge: Our neighborhood had a camp in an undeveloped property between Moon Mountain and Augusta. The landowner was made to clean it up and filled a industrial dumpster with massive mounds of feces, hypodermic needles, stolen property such as a dozen bikes being stripped down to sell, a burned and stripped stolen car, lawnmowers, patio furniture, a moped, potted trees and plants, tools, cell phones, a wheelchair and just about anything else that could be stolen. Several of the campers had warrants out for their arrest. A new housing development nearby had 24-hour security guards to prevent copper pipes from being stolen.

After the camp was cleared out they relocated blocks away to the I-5 Glenwood exit area by the cemetery, referred to as "Heroin Hill." More than once the police have gone up to take away dead, overdosed people. Some of the evicted campers went

to camp under Franklin Boulevard and on county land behind the Shell gas station at the Glenwood exit. The sheriff's office said they won't go up there unless a crime was being committed at the time.

The stealing continues in our neighborhood around 4 to 5 am. In the morning they head to the pawnshops in Glenwood. We know that people have found some of their items there the following morning. Four bikes, a license plate and a big moped were stolen in broad daylight in one small cul-de-sac.

Mark Alaniz
Eugene

SPIRITS BUOYED

On April 16, a very soggy Saturday, a number of us gathered at the Free Speech Plaza in Eugene for our "I'd Rather Pay for Peace than War" and "Fashion Resistance to Militarism" event. We pitched canopies, set up our casket replete with names of corporations that profit from arms production, and undeterred by the rain, bravely paraded through Saturday Market and Farmers Market. We were led by mourners for the wars and war expenses that continue, followed by some in Fashion Resistance to Militarism costumes, signs and flags. We chanted, "We'd rather pay for schools! We'd rather pay for farmers!"

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE BY MARK HARRIS

Who's the Target?

The Klan's influence can still be felt

Laura Archera Huxley, musician, psychologist, filmmaker, wife of Aldous Huxley, once wrote a book first published in the 1960s called *You Are Not The Target*. In it, she counsels that one should not feel overly defensive at the actions of others, because many people are really too concerned or preoccupied with their own problems to be concerned with you. When they do seem to strike out at you personally, it might not really be about you but about what you represent, or who you remind them of. If you are targeted by an institution, it may be about what you represent in terms of a truth the institution doesn't want revealed, but is in fact obvious – if not obvious to the mainstream, at least to those who receive the brunt of the mainstream institution's violence.

I try to remember this when asked to speak or act for others whose voices are silenced. When revealing facts certain institutions don't want revealed I try not to be quixotic when lifting up Klan hoods using my pen (allegedly mightier than the burning cross/sword). I expect that reactions will ensue. I try not to be a stationary target.

One of the challenges is doing nothing, except to continue with a thankless task. Thanks are rare, the more common reaction: It is less risky to attack messengers than to address unjust institutions whose uncomfortable truths are revealed. A colleague informed me one of the tar-baby name-callers is now on the state ethics board for therapists, which speaks more about the institution than the person. I have degrees in a field that I was raised by activists to be an activist in – a field that named my ancestors as mentally ill because they tried to escape slavery.

I question my sanity in choosing to live in a state that banned free African-Americans. I'm Native living in a county named for an Indian fighter. I choose to live in a city and larger community where nearly 90 years after the historic publication of the Ku Klux Klan membership list, prominent community members can influence institutions to continue to have no public mention, or display of that list. Why? If the Klan actually did die in 1924, why not show how far we've come since then? If the UO-employed Klansmen actually lost their influence, why ban the son of the Portland Urban League founder from living on campus in the '50s because he was black? Why were crosses burnt on the lawn of the sorority of the white woman he dated and eventually married if the Klan was dead? De Norval Unthank graduated, designed many buildings, raised children and has a street named after him.

The Klan's influence has not died, but mutated – a fact well known to many outside the mainstream, whether I write or not. I got bored with the silence. Act on the message, don't shoot the messenger. I'm not the target.

Mark Harris is an instructor and substance abuse prevention coordinator at LCC.