

**NO-PASS ZONE**

War against the poor: LTD creates a no-pass zone to the school yard. Imagine families living below the poverty line whose liquid assets do not meet the criteria needed to invest in transportation. How are they supposed to get their children to school on time? For any family on food stamps the pass should be free. Fund it from the top executives' salaries so as not to be a burden on the taxing public.

Vince Loving  
Eugene

**THE EUGENE WAY**

Once again the city of Eugene is attempting to solve a simple problem

with the most complicated and expensive proposal possible. All we small dog owners want is a safe place to allow our little buddies to run free.

Last year in one of the city dog parks a tiny dog on a leash was scooped up and shaken to death by a huge dog while the offender's owner looked on. The tiny one was killed in front of its child companion. The bereaved owner asked the city to provide a place where little dogs could visit without the threat of intimidation. I understand this fear. Last year my own leashed 15-pounder was picked up by a loose 60-pounder and shaken and bitten until I jumped onto the big dog to save her. We dare not go two blocks from my house

to the dog park at Morse Ranch for fear that an inattentive owner of a monster will allow a repeat of this scene.

One would think that the city would fence off a small part of the large dog parks at Morse Ranch or Alton Baker Park to allow small dogs to be free of intimidation. But that solution would be too inexpensive and sensible. The city proposes to use the middle of an open field in Amazon Park for such a facility, but only if the funds to develop this can be raised privately. They propose to create yet another dog park, to destroy a vast green area and to assure failure by expecting private funding for this overly expensive project.

I wholeheartedly agree that the project should be privately funded. I'll put my money into it so I have a safe place for my little girls. But make it inexpensive and practical. Let us have a small portion of a couple of existing dog parks to use.

The city is approaching this problem the same way they approached the city school tax — make it appear as though the city is sympathetic, but make the solution so complicated and expensive that the entire enterprise is sure to fail. It's the Eugene way.

Michael Miller  
Eugene

**GOOD BOYS**

I disagree with Rick Levin's review (6/16) of the play at The Cottage Theater. We have been attending plays in Lane County for about 20 years. We have been season ticket holders at a wide variety of local theater companies.

I thought *The Boys Next Door* was one of the most entertaining and well acted plays we have seen in all that time. I agree that the play doesn't have much of a plot and isn't trying to solve the problems of the world. It doesn't pretend to.

It does allow us to see ourselves, our own problems and foibles, expanded a number of times over. It seems to me that if you can't see some aspect of yourself in this play, you aren't looking. It allows us to laugh at ourselves and maybe even life itself.

I hope Levin's view of the play wasn't influenced by the rude people behind him.

I highly recommend this play to anyone who would like to have an enjoyable evening's diversion from the daily grind, the evening news and the economy.

John Culver  
Springfield

**OFFENSIVE REVIEW**

I'm deeply offended and disappointed in the *Weekly* for giving space to Rick Levin's crude and pointless remarks, in the guise of a review (6/16) of *The Boys Next Door*. While claiming to critique the stereotype of people with developmental disabilities as angelic and emotionally uncomplicated, Levin assumes his right to use the R-word to refer to them. But it isn't cool or hip to use language that not only insults but hurts and deeply offends other people, except perhaps confessionally at a meeting of Neo-Nazis Anonymous. Doing so as part of a juvenile attempt to sound knowledgeable about the reality that underlies a stereotype doesn't make it any less offensive or childish.

The editorial staff shares responsibility for this outrage. It isn't OK to casually publish the N-word, the R-word, or others that historically have been used to denigrate, insult and dehumanize people.

And this isn't about "correctness" of language; these words offend not mere etiquette, but morality.

Robert Roth  
Eugene

**CHANGES STILL NEEDED**

Thank you so much for publishing "The Value of Vets" by Alexandra Notman in the June 9 issue. It was a well-written article with a message that needs



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