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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can share the expense of manufacturing machinery and earn a living doing what they love; where world-class merchandise and artwork with far greater value than mass-produced junk can be created by artisans chosen for their skill instead of their seniority and ass-sucking talent.

We must make group health care, tax breaks and every benefit possible available to these small businesses, entrepreneurs and artisans so they can compete on truly level playing fields like Saturday Market, festivals and the global marketplace of internet sales.

Warren Weisman
Eugene

END HANFORD DUMPING

On May 19 two friends and I carpooled up to Portland to attend the U. S. Department of Energy hearing on the proposal to continue to truck high level nuclear waste across the nation's highways, including I-5 in Oregon, to bury at the Hanford Nuclear reservation in Washington. It is estimated that it will take 12,600 truckloads to dispose of extremely radioactive waste, mostly from nuclear reactors that will be dismantled in the coming decades.

In attendance were 190 people, the majority of whom oppose the DOE's plan, including Portland Mayor Sam Adams. So do Sens. Wyden and Merkley, who have stated that "trucking nuclear waste through Oregon on its way to Hanford poses an unacceptable risk to the health of Portland citizens." One would think that in the wake of the unending nightmare and tragic nuclear accident at Fukushima that our government would consider a better way to dispose of nuclear waste and not expose thousands of us living in the Northwest to our own potential Fukushima.

Hanford is still a Superfund site, still contaminated from 40 years as a major generator of plutonium for our nuclear weapons. There are miles of unlined trenches with containers leaking some of the most toxic chemicals on the planet. This contamination has been found in the soil and the Columbia River which is threatened by a uranium contaminated groundwater plume, moving much faster than the DOE's projection of 125 years. Hanford needs to be cleaned up before any more high level nuclear waste is brought and buried there.

More information is available at Heart of America Northwest website, www.loanw.org

Eva Kronen
Eugene

PERPETUATING BIAS

As the CEO of a local nonprofit agency that serves adults with developmental and

intellectual disabilities, I am responding to the approach by both the writer and the editors of the (6/16) review of *The Boys Next Door*. The review perfectly demonstrates how to continue prejudice at many layers, from disability to race to characterizing audience members. Continue to promote the ignorance by repeating the language and stereotyping.

One point to make about this review is the truth about the R word can most effectively be defined by people with intellectual disabilities, not writers observing a play. If anyone spends a few days with our clients, you will gain real experience, not theater or someone's observation of theater. You can also educate yourself on the movement to end the usage of the R word, for starters at www.r-word.org

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are one of the most abused groups of citizens in our culture. They have a four to 10 times higher risk of becoming victims of crime when compared to those without disabilities. One way to advocate as an ally is to eliminate the negative language and stereotyping. Responsible citizens will do so; others will continue the language which promotes an environment where this abuse occurs, as unfortunately *EW* just did.

Margaret Theisen, CEO
Full Access
Eugene

MISSING THE POINT

I have the feeling I saw a different play than did the reviewer of *The Boys Next Door*. I did not come away with the idea the playwright was trying to manipulate me into thinking those with developmental disabilities are especially pure or wise. I thought the play did an extraordinary job of showing that such people can be annoying and deserving of affection at the same time. The caretaker's role was especially poignant. He got angry with the four, but that didn't make him feel good. He was frustrated by the fact that no matter what he did they never changed.

To say the play lacked a plot is only to say that the lives of the people depicted (most lives, perhaps) lack a plot. That may have been partly the point of the play. The play provoked laughter in places, but that only made it easier to accept the basically sad state of affairs being played out before us.

In my opinion the acting and direction were excellent. And the play definitely illuminated the plight of those like *The Boys Next Door* as well as those assigned to look after them. I was reminded that any society claiming to be enlightened ought to be judged by how it treats its most defenseless and neediest members.

Jim Dinsmore
Eugene

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