

KITTY RESPONDS

Thanks so much to *EW* and its readers for honoring me as one of the "Best of Eugene." I am very appreciative. David and I were remembering our favorite was the more than a decade ago when we were named the "best power couple." I think that's when he was deputy superintendent of Eugene Schools and I was a state representative.

Kitty Piercy

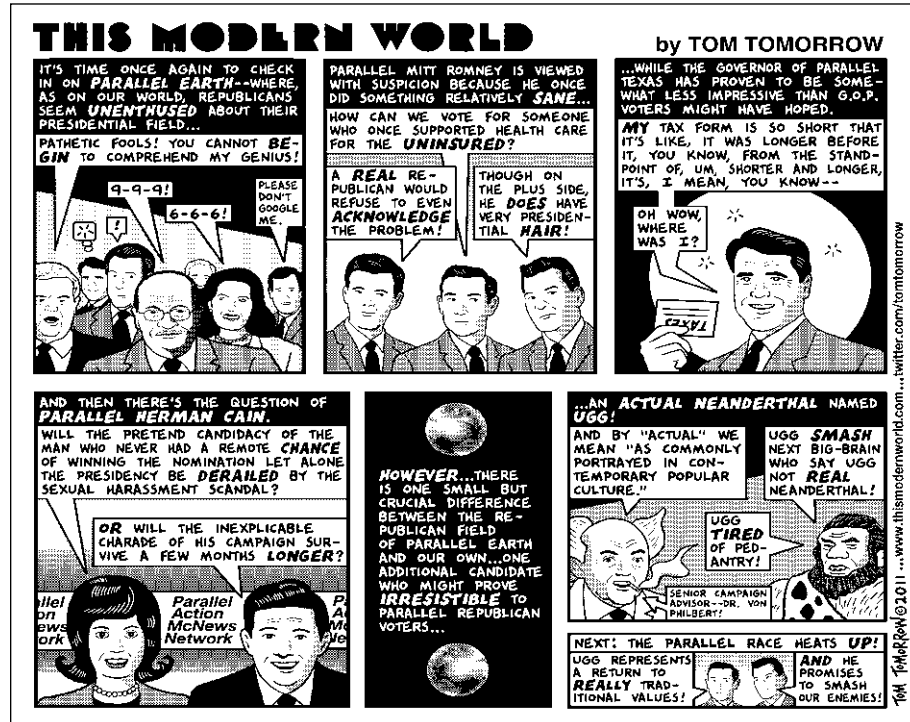
Eugene

IMPOSING EDIFICES

Being at heart a civic-minded fellow I take up the task of calling your attention to the fatal flaw in our government. It's all quite simple once you have the obvious pointed out.

The last place you want to put your government is in an imposing edifice. This never works. A glance at the ziggurats of Mesopotamia, the Acropolis of Athens, the Forbidden City of Beijing, tells you why. People start working in these places and say to themselves, "Hey, this is really cool. Look how important I am hanging out in this imposing edifice." Before you know it they want a career seeking solutions to the problems of their people.

Of course they rapidly realize that if they did indeed actually solve a problem they would be out of work and have to go home and herd goats. So they fuss around sustaining problems in committee and exert considerable ingenuity creating more problems so they can hang out and feel important.



Occupiers have the right idea. Our government should occur not in imposing edifices but encampments of flimsy tents. Then the mood of government workers would be, "Hey, let's get this problem solved. I, for one, am anxious to go home and herd goats!"

David H. Tyson
Eugene

ANARCHY VS. CHAOS

Regarding Gabriel Yospin's letter ("Defunct Anarchism," 11/3), it is very telling when someone makes the leap

between anarchy and violence. No doubt some anarchists were violent, including Emma Goldman and Luigi Galleani, whose followers perpetuated the 1920 Wall Street bombing, but I doubt anarchists have racked up a better body count than the violence carried out by mindlessly obedient slaves to the centralized State known as war.

Anarchy does not mean violence; it comes from the Greek word *anarchia*, which means literally without a leader. It is a pejorative word that depends on — and tells the world — how much or how little you trust your fellow human beings.

Many believe without a centralized state there will be constant violence and people will take each others' stuff and eat each other; anarchists believe — correctly — that society would be better without the centralized state that is all too easy for the 1 percent to control.

Anarchy does not mean chaos; it means replacing centralized government and bureaucracy that is easy to control with truly democratic decentralized organization that is impossible to control. Peter Kropotkin called this the folkote system, which in archaic English means "gathering of ordinary people" and it is utilized in slums all over the world and by the Zapatistas in Mexico.


Anarchy does not mean violence, it means thinking for yourself, and trusting your fellow human beings to work together cooperatively to the point where no government is necessary.

Warren Weisman
Eugene

MOST INFLUENTIAL DEANS

Thank you for Anita Johnson's tribute (10/27) to both Derrick and Jewel Bell. Derrick Bell became dean of the UO School of law long after I graduated. Nonetheless, I was able to work with Bell and learn from him as we worked together on matters of mutual concern. His intelligence and elegance were remarkable. When UO law grads are asked about the school's most influential deans, Wayne Morse and Orlando Hollis are appropriately listed. But

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