

I know personally many folks who work and volunteer at Greenhill and they are all good, caring people doing very difficult jobs, the very best they can, day in and day out!

*Tim Boyden  
Eugene*

**UNPOPULAR DECISIONS**

I support Greenhill and its mission. I am offended by people who make inflammatory statements without disclosing all the facts. I am offended by personal attacks directed towards Greenhill's veterinarian, director and other knowledgeable and devoted animal welfare professionals.

Oakley has become the poster child for what Greenhill is apparently doing wrong. Oakley suffers from painful ear infection, kidney failure, arthritis in all four legs, a cancerous tumor, painful eye disease, and dementia causing him to act unpredictably aggressive and making treatment of his health problems difficult. This was confirmed by a veterinary specialist. Mister was an FeLV/FIV positive cat with cancer and a terribly painful eye condition that rendered him almost blind. Greg had multiple, overwhelming health issues. No amount of testing and diagnostics would have been useful in helping to save his life.

Still the questions remain. Is it "humane" to send an animal with overwhelming health issues to a rescue or hospice situation? Is it really being "rescued" if its suffering continues just so people can say it wasn't euthanized? What if it doesn't receive the care it needs to alleviate its suffering? When this happens, the mission of humane care for animals becomes about people making a poor decision just so they don't have to feel bad.

So when you accuse Greenhill of being a "kill" shelter because they make unpopular but medically sound decisions based on what is best for the animal, you are barking up the wrong tree.

*Randi E. Golub  
Certified Veterinary Technician  
Eugene*

**CARTESIAN CHICKENS**

The most offensive part of your Aug. 16 cover story on locally raised chickens was when Ephraim Payne smugly praises Derek Brandow for thanking the chickens for their "sacrifice" on butchering day.

Never mind the exaggerated claims of sustainable agriculture — despite the fact that these grass-fed chickens still consume 10 times their weight in grain. Never mind the questionable label of "healthy food," despite overwhelming evidence that eating meat is responsible for epidemics of heart disease, various cancers and a host of other maladies.

While these assertions are mere misinformation, the logic of "humane slaughter" is not even internally consistent. To say one should — or even can — act humanely, we're acknowledging that chickens are sentient. If they are sentient, with a capacity for suffering, pleasure and relationships, if they fear death and love life, then genuine humaneness would take their interests into full account.

Considering truly sustainable, delicious, healthy and nutritious alternatives are readily available, how can one claim

that cutting a chicken's throat after living one tenth of her natural life span is humane? Can we really pat ourselves on the back for not torturing her beforehand?

If you want to eat meat, you can either adopt Descartes' 17th century view that chickens (and dogs, cats, cows, etc.) have no souls, intelligence, perception or sensation, or you can choose to look the other way. However, it simply makes no sense to claim humaneness when killing to appease one's taste buds. Instead, why don't we give thanks for the fact that we don't have to?

*Lucas Spiegel  
Eugene*

**IGNORING THE PEOPLE**

Ambrose Bierce defined "corporation" as an ingenious device for obtaining profit without individual responsibility. Our local county officials also take no responsibility when they turn a blind eye toward the safety and wellbeing of citizens and only represent millionaire developers.

This is the case of the latest decision that was made concerning the site review of Parvin Butte Aug. 25.

One hundred people testified in person and writing against the Lost Valley Rock Products quarry. A large animal vet testified that blasting and rock crushing will have negative effects on large animals. A woman testified that veterans suffering from PTSD living in a veterans' home close to the quarry site are having negative reactions to blasting and rock crushing noises. OSU extension staff testified of the negative effects of dust on organic and hay crops close to the quarry. A man with 80 percent hearing loss worries about losing the rest of his hearing and has submitted letters from his doctors.

Rattlesnake Road will be used to carry this rock and has no pull-offs or shoulders and will impact the safety of residents who bike, walk their dogs and ride horses on this road. Rattlesnake Road was not built to handle trucks that weigh over 45 tons. Are Lane County residents expected to repair the road damage caused by these private trucks?

Gary Darnielle, the hearings officer, said clearly the site review process as interpreted in this decision does not provide the protection expected by most of the community.

What an understatement!

*Arlen Markus  
Dexter*

**UNWRITTEN DECREES**

This letter is in regards to Jerry Ritter's letter asking to see a decree to provide housing to the homeless [8/16]. Mr. Ritter, there were unwritten laws and decrees in this country centuries before the first welfare line of illegal aliens. But they weren't called as such. No one would go hungry or without a warm place to stay, especially children. To me you sound like the 1 percent — if we didn't have this law written for you then it does not apply. I am glad you would rather have your taxes go to provide housing for the 1 percent rather than provide it for our own children.

*Ken Bryant  
Springfield*