

swiftly Lane County has declined since the locals decided to elect themselves a bunch of right-wing commissioners?

Mike Quigley
Eugene

A NEEDED POLICY

I am writing to address concerns regarding Lane Transit District and to propose a companywide LTD policy. I am a 72-year-old with a disability caused by polio. I have a master's degree in urban studies and planning, and in 1990 I served on the Eugene City Commission for Rights of People with Disabilities.

On Oct. 15 after boarding LTD bus 24, I proceeded toward an available seat which would suit my physical needs. Before I took my seat, the driver accelerated forward. Then, the bus suddenly stopped, causing me to fall backwards, down the inside stairs, injuring my back, shoulders and neck. With the help of medical professionals and physical therapy I am beginning to slowly recover.

I want to see immediate implementation of a card, similar to the honored rider's card, available to individuals who supply appropriate doctors' statements. When a rider displays this card, the driver will automatically freeze the bus until the passenger is seated. Two things I do not want to come of this proposal: I do not want to be corralled into or restricted to a specific seating area, and I do not want to demean myself by announcing my disability when I board.

Many community members I have discussed this with agree such a policy is appropriate and necessary.

David Freeman
Eugene

BORN TO IGNORE

Interesting factoid: When starting a search with the words "born to," Google will suggest "born to run" or "born to die" to complete the phrase, which represent my sentiments exactly about "Born to Gun" [cover story, 11/29]. I believe that

most people have a fairly superficial, TV-culture attitude that completely ignores the evidence surrounding violence of all kinds. Pop culture seems to believe that killing is not only a practical, efficient way of insuring our own security and quality of life, it is also a quick, easy way of resolving conflicts, a natural and healthy response to the world in which we live, symbolic of masculine strength, and entirely moral (i.e., sanctioned by whatever higher authority you choose to invoke).

None of this is true, if one would bother to do the research. I suggest starting with the website killology.com which "focuses on the reactions of healthy people in killing circumstances" (such as police and military in combat) and the factors that enable and restrain killing in these situations. This field of study was pioneered by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, in his Pulitzer-nominated book, *On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*.

If we can imagine ourselves secure behind the barrel of a gun, we had better also realize that we are running away from the real issues and we are about to die as a result: born to run, born to die. Carrying a gun is real chickenshit bravado.

David Hazen
Eugene

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

It's time to remember! Dec. 10 was the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it was celebrated in many Oregon communities. Eugene Activist Peg Morton was a 16-year-old high school girl in Geneva when she looked down from the balcony on the U.N. gathering with the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt. What a thrill!

The Declaration begins with "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in world." It continues with Article 25 stating, "Everyone has the right to a standard of

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- 1.16 Loudon Wainwright/Dar Williams
- 1.24 Solas: Shamrock City Tour
- 2.01 Black Prairie
- 2.15 Victor Wooten
- 2.16 Afro-Cuban All Stars
- 2.20 Led Kaapana
- 2.21 Woideck: Jazz/Mancini
- 3.2 Ken Peplowski
- 3.6-17 Siri Vik. My Funny Valentine
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- 4.25 John Pizzarelli Quartet
- 5.1 Hapa

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