

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

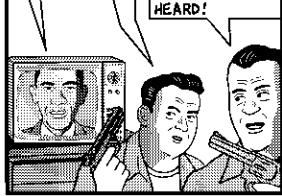
N.R.A. DEBATE TIPS

1) ALWAYS STAY ON MESSAGE!

--AND SO I PROPOSE THESE SENSIBLE GUN REFORM MEASURES--

DID HE JUST SAY HE'S GOING TO CONFISCATE OUR GUNS?

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD!



2) NOTHING SAYS "RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNER" LIKE THE THREAT OF ARMED INSURRECTION!

IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR LAWS OFF MY GUNS, I MIGHT HAVE TO START SHOOTING PEOPLE!

JUST SAYIN'!



3) EMPHASIZE SAFETY!

DON'T WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN ENOUGH TO TURN THEIR SCHOOLS INTO ARMED CAMPS?

ALSO WE SHOULD INSTALL LANDMINES AND TRIPWIRES.

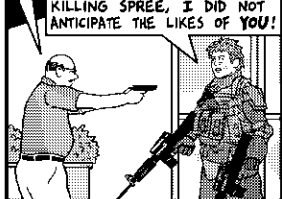
EDDIE THE SAFETY EAGLE CAN TEACH THE LITTLE TYKES HOW TO AVOID 'EM!



4) EXPLAIN HOW EVERYDAY CITIZEN-HEROES WILL HELP KEEP THE POPULACE SECURE!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, WOULD-BE MASS SHOOTER! I AM A STEELY-NERVED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT--AND I'M TAKING YOU OUT!

CURSES! WHEN I PLANNED MY KILLING SPREE, I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE LIKES OF YOU!



5) MAKE ENTIRELY REASONABLE COMPARISON OF GUN OWNERSHIP TO CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE.

FIREARM-AMERICANS ARE ACTUALLY BANNED FROM MANY PUBLIC BUILDINGS!

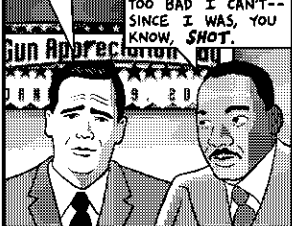
WILL THIS RELENTLESS DISCRIMINATION NEVER CEASE?



6) BE SURE TO INVOKE SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER RIGHT BEFORE THE HOLIDAY BEARING HIS NAME!

IF MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE ALIVE TODAY--HE'D TOTALLY SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE FOR UNFETTERED GUN RIGHTS!

TOO BAD I CAN'T-- SINCE I WAS, YOU KNOW, SHOT.



now, when might be the appropriate time to do such visioning? If planning begins now, then the downtown cultural district will become a legacy project, marveled at and deeply appreciated by Lane County residents far into the future.

Robert L. Hart, executive director
Lane County Historical Society and
Museum

LANGUAGE IS KEY

Communication is key to contribute to a world and its progress. To do so we rely on language. We live in a world with over 6,000 languages and according to studies 90 percent of these languages are spoken by only 100,000 people and dwindling. Why are we hell-bent on reducing our cultural capital?

In a Jan. 17 column by Anne Bridgman, "Foreign Language Squeeze," a need for more language courses was underlined, along with smaller classrooms to ensure that proficiency was obtained.

In both local and global economy we should be able to communicate effectively not just with rudimentary skills, like cavemen/women. Is your message important? Why would you not want to convey the exact idea you are trying to communicate? Apart from this ideal, is there no language requirement to fulfill at colleges and universities nowadays?

So I ask, *¿En que está pasando?* Do we care in recognizing the diverse cultural makeup of our own country and the languages that go along with it?

Are we willing to leave a bankrupt English-only view of the world to our children? I won't! Thank you, Anne, for not "Shortchanging Our Schools."

Phil Carrasco
Eugene

WILL OREGON BE NEXT?

I am glad to see that our country is one step closer to having true equality for all. I am writing in response to Shannon Finnell's article Jan. 10 that talked about marriage equality and the headaches that could possible come with it. It's refreshing to see an article about marriage equality

that also brings to light the legal struggles that newlywed couples are faced with.

The article was mainly focused on the couple and their wedding plans, but it did a good job emphasizing how difficult the process actually is. Like how the Oregonian couple had to travel to New York to get married, and the little-known fact that if you get married in a certain state you also have to get divorced in that state. Not to mention the lack of federal recognition and all the work that must be done to ensure that you have your rights nationally as a couple.

Like many Oregonians I am glad to see a few states take this step and hope to see Oregon take this step someday soon as well, but I would like to see more people informed about the difficulties behind same sex marriages and everything that those couples need to go through even when they are allowed to get married.

Jennifer Borrero
Eugene

LIMITS ON STAFF

Reading the letters of complaint lately [1/3] regarding the use of "isolation rooms" in 4J schools has me wondering. What exactly do these people propose for a solution to replace them? You have a limited staff due to budget cuts, and overcrowded classrooms where the learning process is already impaired, and now we need to have what a dedicated staff in each school to administer/ control out-of-control children? Pray tell where are the funds to come from?

Unless parents are prepared to respond on extremely short notice to pick their children up when they have a meltdown, there really is no other solution if the other children in the classroom aren't to suffer from the interruptions to their learning environment. Maybe parents could volunteer to form an "emergency response" team that would be trained to deal with children with behavioral issues. Short of that the state will need to be forthcoming in more funds; good luck with that.

Jeff Innis
Eugene

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