

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



color made a sporadic appearance on the front cover [6/27 "Green Tribunal: Will India Lead Enviro Law?"]. Yet, why the need to describe Rahul Choudhary as "a tall, dark and handsome Indian" who "speaks in a British-tinged accent"? If Choudhary were white, would it matter if he was handsome or not? I believe it would've been possible to write about Choudhary's work without other-ing and fetishizing the person.

To well-meaning Eugene folks (tie dye and dreadlocks or not): It would be great if I could ride my bike by the river, saunter in the Rose Garden or walk down the street without being called out to, "Konnichiwa!" and eat pad thai using chopsticks in public without being watched and commented on, "You do it so well ... because you're oriental."

Adeline Chak
Eugene

PREVENTABLE HAZARD

The Eugene Water & Electric Board is now considering signing a \$26 million contract to buy wireless smart meters. They plan to install these on homes and businesses.

EWEB says that the safe, dependable analog meters that are on our homes now, which use rotating gears and have worked well for the past 40 to 50 years, need to go!

Wireless smart meters are made of plastic and have a computer chip with a transmitting antenna. The life span is seven to 15 years. These will need to be replaced at a cost to consumers.

Many health concerns have been raised by doctors, including reports from The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (aaemonline.org) Jan. 19, 2012. The academy opposes the installation of wireless smart meters in homes and schools based on scientific assessment of the current medical literature. Chronic exposure to wireless radiofrequency radiation (which smart meters emit) is a preventable environmental hazard. The academy calls for a "moratorium on smart meter installation until serious public

health issues are resolved."

Many smart meters are placed on outer walls near bedrooms, kitchens and playrooms, exposing humans to pulsed microwave radiation. This should be immediately prohibited.

In California, where PG&E and other utilities have installed smart meters, 57 jurisdictions have placed moratoriums on these meters. EWEB seems to only look at industry reports on this subject.

The people of Eugene need to understand this issue and tell the EWEB commissioners to vote "no" on this smart meter contract. See FamiliesForSafeMeters.org or email info@FamiliesForSafeMeters.org.

Neil Hunter
Eugene

PEDESTRIAN ROULETTE

One need look no further than to the behavior of drivers in Eugene in order to understand pedestrian behavior. How many times have you seen one, two or a dozen people standing at an intersection, either downtown or in the neighborhoods, waiting for traffic to clear in order to cross the street?

Visit Santa Monica, Calif., to see what courteous, informed driving looks like. A pedestrian waves a toe in the general direction of an intersection and traffic stops. Offending drivers (those who don't stop) are cited and fined. Jaywalkers are ticketed as well. The locals, at least, know the rules and follow them.

Conversely, here in Eugene, most drivers must not know the law or simply choose to ignore it and are seldom (or never?) cited. Ticketing drivers who don't stop for pedestrians waiting to cross the street is clearly the place to start the campaign to increase pedestrian safety. The Eugene Police Department would do well to get at the root of the problem rather than focusing on the arguably reasonable "misbehavior" of pedestrians.

Pedestrians and bikers also play a role in the ongoing game of pedestrian roulette. One particular spot where their behavior is

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