

SPLICE OF LIFE

In response to Jeff Holiday's letter [8/15] about the destruction of a plot of GMO Golden Rice, I have to say that yes, Golden Rice may be an answer to Vitamin A deficiency in poor countries. But people are scared of the GMO industry because of the Frankenstein tactics of companies like Monsanto, which have used genetic modification to make corn and soybeans resistant to herbicides so they can spray Roundup over their entire acreage so that it kills everything except the crop. Or how about splicing the gene from Bt, a soil fungus, into corn so that anything that eats the corn dies? Sorry, but I really don't like having poisons introduced *into* my food.

GMO labeling and a little integrity in the scientific field would go a long way in using genetic modification to save lives instead of just making unscrupulous companies like Monsanto richer.

Cenya Eichengreen
Eugene

BAN THEM ALL

I think that banning Native American mascots on the grounds that they're not politically correct is ridiculous considering the fact that we're not banning all other racially themed mascots. If you look around Eugene alone, we have The Highlanders, and Sheldon High School is "The Home of the Fighting Irish." Can we just take a second to recognize that the term "Fighting

Irish" is actually a slur that was used against Catholic immigrants in the 19th century?

I don't see anything blatantly offensive about a sports team being called "The Braves." If we're going to ban one group of mascots for being rooted in the culture of others, let's ban all of them.

Kati Dawalt
Eugene

AREA BEAUTIFICATION

Kudos to the Eugene city workers who keep the downtown planters looking so beautiful!

Beverley Mowery
Eugene

GIVE THE COP A BREAK

I just finished reading the news [8/15] about the EPD officer who allegedly "slapped" this 10-year-old boy in the face as he was escorting the child to the custody of another parent by court order. Curious, I checked out the entire YouTube video and noticed that while the officer was leading the child by the wrist, the boy bit the officer. The officer responded by tapping the child on the forehead in a reactive effort to stop the boy from continuing to bite him. I saw nothing that would indicate that the officer slapped this child in the face. He apparently didn't hurt the boy, and I doubt he will suffer any damaging issues from this alleged "slap in the face."

I am not one who generally sides with authority, as it is oftentimes misused and

abused, but could this have been handled in another fashion? Maybe! After all, according to defense attorney, Laura Fine Moro, police receive hours and hours of training about restraining and subduing individuals. She also blamed the officer for creating the circumstance that led to the officer being bitten by the boy. I see this as a lawyer's tactic to incriminate this officer by making a *huge* mountain out of a molehill. This slant also fuels the already strained relations between the public and law enforcement.

The boy bit the officer, the officer reacted to the stinging surprise of a bite and stopped the biting by lightly tapping the boy in the forehead. How many of you would have used discussion, active listening or tapped in to your inner peace to advise and counsel this boy while his teeth were sinking into your finger?

The sad part remains with the emotionally common and sad fact that another family is in crisis, but in this instance, I don't think the EPD is at fault.

Jay Greenspan
Corvallis

LIFT THE CURTAIN

In a world clouded by the doom and gloom naysayers of newspapers and TV, it was refreshing to see a few rays of hope this month. "Ironman" Elon Musk, CEO of Paypal, Space X, Tesla motors, Solar City, Hyperloop, and his brilliant engineering skills have not only produced the world's

best and safest car, his all-electric cars have paved the way to make gasoline powered transportation obsolete. Anyone who buys his cars will never have to pay for charging at his solar-powered, nationwide network of super-fast charging stations.

Big Prison and Big Pharma had their world threatened by glimpses of sanity against the "reefer madness" status quo. A.G. Eric Holder proposed letting low-level drug offenders out of the prison since they pose no risk to the public and crowd the overflowing prisons.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta and Gov. Chris Christie, thanks to the ground breaking marijuana research of the Israeli government, are now proposing allowing [sick] children to receive the proven healing benefits of marijuana. Research is now progressing on using marijuana to cure cancer and Alzheimer's disease. The only thing holding back these brave new world innovations is the paid-for influence that Big Oil, Big Prison and Big Pharma has upon our elected leaders. Rip back the curtain and let the light of the brave new future shine through.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

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