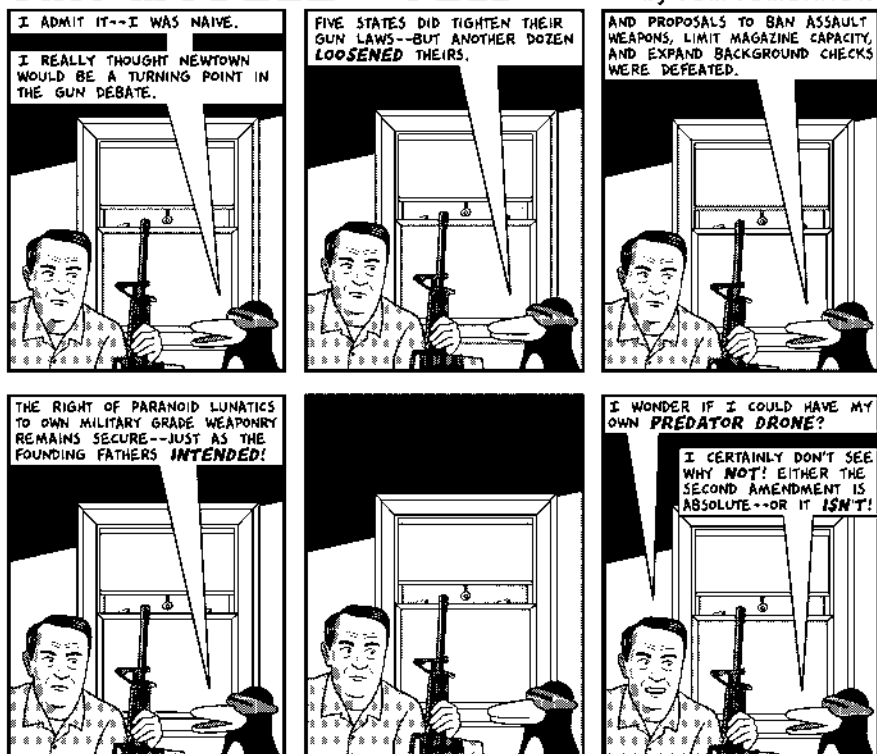


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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We seem unable to understand that this is also our own problem. The time to make drastic changes is now. The planet as we know it is teetering towards destruction, but the conference ended in bickering.

The U.S. could take significant steps. Our military might around the world is in itself an environmental disaster. How many natural resources, including humans, do we use or destroy as we build and maintain thousands of ships and bases, airplanes and drones, plus hundreds of thousands of personnel in the armed forces? The Pentagon budget doubled between 2001 and 2011. Valuable land has been covered with concrete and nuclear waste. Precious ecosystems have been destroyed. It is hard to imagine how much oil is used to maintain this military empire. Social and human needs go unmet.

Let's end these military strategies and expenditures. Let's choose a path of shared security, one of peace and healing around the world.

Naïve? No, a necessity!

Peg Morton
Eugene

TIME TO LET GO

The empty old gray barn on Willamette Street continues to slowly, inevitably rot. It happens. All things must pass. The School District dithers while nostalgia-choked preservationists shuffle and dream of the wonderful summer evenings so long ago. Just a few blocks away are two packed schools, old, barely hanging together, full of students who need better facilities now. It seems to me that the School District's chief

concern should be its students, teachers and facilities. I truly hope that the decision made about the fate of Civic Stadium is driven by the needs of the School District and not special interest groups.

Kevin Reilly
Eugene

TRANSITORY HOUSING

Eben Fodor presents what he calls a "complete picture" of housing permit data over the last 14 years ("Eugene Growth Trends" analysis, Nov. 21) as evidence of a "dramatic shift" in growth, moving from single family units on the urban fringe to multi-family construction in the urban core. In 2007 and 2008, single-family construction fell sharply from the previous seven years and has remained at a much reduced number each year since. His graph shows multi-family units also drastically reduced in 2007 but increasing each year since.

However, Fodor's conclusion that the data shows a "remarkably speedy transition from sprawling single-family development on greenfields" to compact growth at the urban core is faulty because student housing is lumped with other multi-family construction. (He mentions this inclusion about halfway through the article.) The student population always lives in the area near campus, so have not been part of this migration toward the center from the fringe. Also, the new student housing is designed for the transitory student population and is mostly not appropriate for non-student families both by layout and location. Looking at his underlying data and holding what is likely student housing apart

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