

KEEPING BOTH TONGUES

I am a teacher and a conversation I had in line at the bank steered towards bilingual education. The person I was speaking with expressed dismay at monolinguals who spoke only Spanish.

"They are in America now, and in America we speak English."

I am not one to disagree with speaking, or rather, learning English. The problem is, when we say that it is time to learn English, we're often asking a little more than just language acquisition. We are asking for assimilation. In assimilation theory one gives up their culture for the dominant culture. In doing so a type of deficit thinking becomes pervasive when we speak of immigrant individuals and families. We have a harder time seeing the benefits that can be brought by embracing the diversity of culture, and we are left wondering, "When are they going to become like us?"

In critical race theory, when we see assimilation as the solution to the problem, we negate the fact that not everyone is the same. There are fundamental identities people cannot change about themselves. What can change are our attitudes and beliefs about how we educate.

Research tells us that English as a second language students learn comprehension much faster when they are encouraged to continue using their mother tongue. They also retain their own language throughout their lifetimes. A bilingual approach to ESL education would not only bolster test

scores, it would promote a more diverse culture in Oregon.

Shane Hudson-Connor
Eugene

THANKS, JAKE

I would like to apologize to Jake Klonoski for Sean Doyle's letter of Dec. 19. I am not an expert on Afghanistan, and I doubt if Mr. Doyle is either. I do know, however, that every one of us owes Mr. Klonoski a debt of immense gratitude for his sacrificial service on all our behalf.

Thank you, Jake.

Dale Riddle
Creswell

ANOTHER HORSE RESCUE

Thank you for running the "Give Guide" stories Dec. 19. We are blessed with many organizations doing inspired work in our community.

I wanted to let EW readers know of a new horse rescue and sanctuary just west of Eugene. My wife, Jane Kelly, and I started Oregon Horse Rescue a little over a year ago in response to the huge problem in the Northwest of neglected and abandoned horses. We currently have 33 horses on our property that we have saved.

I invite you to learn more about us (and maybe even donate!) at OregonHorseRescue.com or find us on Facebook.

David Kelly
former Eugene city councilor

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



IT WAS NOT THE TRUCKS

During the week of snow everywhere in Lane County, I thought it would be the trucks that would be the problem for drivers to look out for. I was wrong. Everyone was driving with a nice cushion of space on all sides, with room to stop and room to slow down to turn — except the four-wheel-drive cars. They constantly jumped into the cushions everyone else had made around their vehicles.

Yes, most four-wheel-drive cars are more capable driving in adverse weather. I only ask their drivers to be more considerate of the rest of us who are doing our best.

Rouanna Garden
Eugene

VOLUNTEER REPORTERS

Every public agency uses in-house volunteers to provide services due to

DESIGN MATTERS BY JERRY DIETHELM

Jerry's Predictions 2013

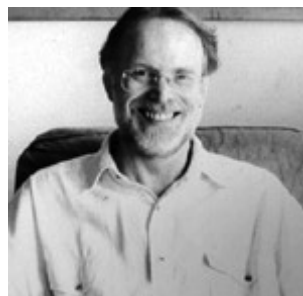
WEINERS, LOSERS AND SHEEP GUTS AHEAD

And it is written that:

- More and more polytheistic people will worship the plastic goddess Polly.
- Concealed whistle checks will be required for all government workers. And on the stand, the U.S. government will, instead of taking the Fifth, continue to take the Fourth.
- The NSA will create a vast meta-database of toilet flushes, mega-clip newspaper predictions, adopt Snoopy as its mascot and tag X-Box rats in recycled data dumps.
- Antonin Scalia will fail to find himself mentioned in the original document, find no precedent for his existence, have nothing to interpret and with no further purpose, become supremely resigned.
- Thousands of volunteers will join in the march against free will.
- Men who try to exercise control over women's bodies will get increasingly limited access to — and much less exercise over — women's bodies.
- Facebook will become the best-kept novel in the Middle Kingdom.
- In China, it would be wise to avoid: He said, Xi said.
- Sawmill owners, used to sawing what they see, and seeing what they saw, will miss sawing the forest for the trees.
- The crash-test dummies union will break a few legs

and bang some sense into its members.

- The U.S.-Mexican border fence will grow cancerously into our Maginot Wall. In time, tourists will come from China, England and all over the world to walk around our wall.
- In the Republican House, a congress of in-closet, ex-prestidigitators will conjure a Dream Act out of The Tan Man's hat. And X-Men will become X-People.
- Mitch McConnell will have to choose between becoming the poster boy for KFP, Kentucky Fried Prunes, or the man who was turned down by Obamacare.
- Anthony Weiner will buy the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile and open a national chain of junk shops, while Eliot Spitzer continues his struggle to rise up from the Ashley. On the radio, Carlos Danger will sex up the adventures of Guy Noir.
- Pilots at airports will be asked by the TSA to remove their shoes to detect whether they have two left feet.
- Climate change effects on predictions will precipitate a scudding cumulus of cloudy visions, stir up strong winds of irony, twist the knickers of sarcasm, pelt rain on truth and cause Visuvian and tsunamic disturbances to sheep entrails. Advanced prognosticators will be forced to rely on satellite, tealeaf readings of the Sargasso Sea.



- Rep. Peter DeFazio will propose a Noah Tree Trust that preserves two of each old-growth related species. Sen. Ron Wyden will cut the BLM baby in one over no. 2. Both will look the other way as the Endangered Species Act becomes increasingly endangered.

- The Oregon Forest Practices Act will fail to get its act together. And after a Shakespearian Act III, we'll all go home.
- The notorious Area 51 will at last be opened to the public as Disney Weird.
- Hard-right propaganda will vanish into its black hole singularity of no.
- A baby girl thrown out with the bathwater will survive to rise up to become the wise old woman whose irresistible spiritual presence

transforms Tea Party reactionary ways into a tea ceremony of empathy, grace and compassion.

- Financial genealogists will falsify the family trees of derivatives while hedge fund futures turn to topiary.
- An emperor-has-no-clothes headline will adjure: It's the Utility Poles Stupid! That block cars, bikes, people and the magnificence of Spencer Butte. And: That mining camp look is oh so 1880s! Down With UP!
- Smart meters will broadcast digital *billet doux* to Kathy Ging.
- Art Robinson will collect so much urine at his Cave Creek lab that he will be unable to hold it.
- And "Shoeless Phil Knight's" ghost will haunt the deal for Civic Stadium.

Jerry Diethelm is a Eugene architect, landscape architect, and planning and urban design consultant.