

SCABS WANTED

The teachers are on strike in Medford, and to fight the strike and stonewall negotiations the Medford School District is reaching out to substitute teachers in District 4J, and probably other districts, looking for what, in my day, we called scabs — hiring teachers to cross the picket line and weaken the strike.

I have it on good authority that this is what Medford is offering their “alternative employees”: \$340 per-day pay, \$30 per-day dinner allowance, free breakfast and lunch, round-trip mileage for a trip home during the week and a hotel room for the duration.

That’s \$1,700 a week, exclusive of meals, mileage and hotels. Has the Eugene 4J School Board budgeted for this?

Walker T Ryan
Eugene

GOD SMITES THE GIPPER

Those who say “crazy people” are too lazy to work must think that people in wheelchairs are too lazy to walk. Are people who are paralyzed on the right (side) from a stroke too lazy to shake your hand? Are people who lose their sight or hearing from a brain tumor too lazy to notice you? Are people who survive a gunshot to the head but can’t speak too lazy to say hello? Or are people who think those demented thoughts, suffering from frontotemporal neurocognitive disorder, whose symptoms are marked by the loss of sympathy or empathy — are they psychopaths?

The trend to empty psychiatric hospitals

started in 1967, when newly elected Gov. Ronald Reagan immediately laid off 4,000 state employees — 3,700 of them in the field of mental hygiene. Twenty years later, President Reagan is stricken with a mental health disorder, Alzheimer’s. Was he then too lazy to campaign for fellow Republicans? Was Bush the Elder pissed that “The Great Communicator” couldn’t communicate so great? Or was God saying, “Because you have harmed the weak, the infirm and the feeble minded, whom I love, I will inflict you with Alzheimer’s. You will not remember you were president of the U.S. And that goes for your NRA buddy Charlton Heston, too. He won’t remember he was Moses. Jesus, I hate Hollywood!” A cautionary tale.

This is not *Cuckoo’s Nest*, circa 1962. This is 2014, with MRI, PET, CAT, EEG, the human genome mapped and stem cells. What? Too lazy to stay informed?

Troy Kelly
Eugene

PART HOBBIT

Many great scientific discoveries have been made in the fields of paleoanthropology and genetics in the past 13 years. In 2000, we cracked the code of the human genome. In 2003, the first discovered remains of *Homo floresiensis*, the “Hobbit People,” were found. In 2010, Neanderthal DNA and the DNA of a newly discovered human ancestor, the Denisovan, were extracted from fossil remains and decoded.

Analysis of genes from various human populations around the world has revealed

that outside of West Africa, most of the world’s population is 1 percent to 4 percent Neanderthal. Known deviations are the populations of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea, Australia and the Philippines). These populations have Denisovan genes intermingled. Papua New Guinea has the highest mingling examined thus far, with 4 to 6 percent Denisovan.

There is evidence suggesting that Neanderthals in some regions, like Europe, had light-colored hair and eyes. The remains of a 7,000-year-old *Homo sapiens* that were found in Europe had blue eyes, dark skin and an inability to digest lactose. Where are signs of evolution, the creationists ask.

Pondering this information and various other questions about how the human species became the kaleidoscope of ethnicities that it is today, I can’t help but expect more human ancestors to be discovered.

The above-mentioned contemplation has revealed to me a great irony: White supremacists’ claim to “racial purity.” All people with native European ancestry have Neanderthal genes.

Humans of purely West African descent are the true human race — racially pure, at least more so than Europeans and Melanesians. The rest of us are a bunch of crossbreeds.

David Alexander Rosenzweig
Eugene

DOGGY STYLE

Kudos for not using our government’s much-beloved phrase “terrorist” in your own description of “eco-saboteur” Rebecca Rubin [1/30]. You could have gone one

step further and dropped the “eco” as well. How do actions taken on behalf of domesticated dogs and feral horses benefit our planet’s ecology?

Steve Kyte
Corvallis

RETRACT THE LIES

I am writing on behalf of Deep Green Resistance (DGR) Steering Committee and Advisory Board about the article which your paper found fit to publish Feb. 6 about Lierre Keith’s appearance at this year’s Public Interest Environmental Law Conference.

Reporter Shannon Finnell makes a number of assertions about Keith and “her supporters” which are completely untrue. The assertions that any of our members have ever “outed” people on the internet or made their information public is absurd, false but, more significantly, endangers the safety of members planning to attend PIELC.

Not only did Finnell not engage in due diligence as a journalist before publishing lies but she did not contact Lierre Keith or anyone else from DGR to check on the veracity of the information she decided to print.

Keith and other DGR members have already received threats of physical and sexual assault for our stance on gender politics and this article has now made that potential of violence even greater.

We expect *EW* to publish a full and complete retraction of the lies this article contains and we hope that your paper decides to interview Keith or other



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