

## THE POWER OF SEXISM

The emergence of sexuality in the teen and early adult years is confusing for all of us. For women, the situation is complicated by their position on the victim end of sexism. Many young women, myself included, enter this period with a belief that men and women are equal, and that their wishes regarding their own bodies will be generally respected by others. It is a shock to find out that this is not true.

In my late teens, I slept over at the house of a very close friend. In my innocence, I thought nothing of sleeping with friends — friends often have sleepovers. This friend was male, and I believed that my explicitly stated wish to remain platonic would be respected. After all, four years of friendship builds trust.

I awoke in the middle of a sexual act to which I had not consented. When I told my friends I was raped, they said that couldn't be true because he was a friend and I was sleeping at his house. I must have "asked for it."

Our society repeatedly confuses innocence with agency in the case of rape victims. Men confuse refusal with flirting. All young men need to be taught to ask explicitly for what they want in a sexual encounter, and wait for an obvious verbal or physical "yes." They have a responsibility to be aware of the power sexism gives them over women.

My male friend had to learn the hard way, by victimizing me. Since I spoke up, he learned to be more respectful of women's boundaries. We remained friends.

To all victims of sexual assault everywhere:

Trust yourself. Only you know what you wanted, how far you were willing to go, and where your partner/ perpetrator crossed the line into nonconsensual acts. Being unwilling or unable to prosecute your attacker does not change the accuracy of the label "rape."

It is never your fault if you engage in "risky behaviors" because you believe the world is a safer place than it actually is. Instead of "learning our place" as women in this society (i.e., don't get drunk at parties, don't wear revealing clothes, don't go into private spaces with men, etc.), we should be expecting our boys/ men to learn how to make this a safer world for everyone.

Kara Huntermoon  
Eugene

## REST HAVEN CELL-OUT

Rest Haven Memorial Park is currently courting a new occupant for the park, a 115-foot AT&T cell tower, disguised as a tree.

Last week, a sorrowing mother was waiting at the canopy of burial to bury her deceased son, not 300 feet from the proposed cell tower site, yet had not been informed about this plan in process. Is this fraud? It certainly seems to be duplicity.

The neighbors on the other side of Rest Haven and many homeowners within 300 feet of this noxious plan are being marginalized as much as possible by Rest Haven and the city planners.

Also, dear readers, do you know that we already boast approximately 100 active cell towers in Eugene, not to mention antennas, powerful broadcasting towers and other

AT&T tower proposals in the works?

These towers are not harmless. EMR (electro-magnetic radiation) emissions promise us everything from sleepless nights to our own premature burial — perhaps even at Rest Haven! There are recent studies out of Yale University to confirm these dangers.

There is no planning by our city officials and there seems to be no limits set for dangerous cell tower sitings in Eugene. Communities used to agree, by law, that these dangerous and unsightly cell towers belonged on the periphery of our lives, away from homes, schools and places of human gathering. What has happened? And how can we recall this reckless abandon?

Barbara Nugent, Margie Cambell,  
Sat Hari Khalsa and 10 others

## DISCONNECTED

The EW Outdoors issue May 22 is a perfect illustration of the environmental value/behavior disconnect within the Eugene community. Most of us have environmental values, but are then ironically mindless about the ways in which we find adventure. Is driving many miles to go on a walk in the woods a responsible choice considering the challenges we face with our already problematic carbon-emitting habits? I would love to see the Weekly showcase ways to get fresh air within bus/ bike/ walking accessibility.

This sense of entitlement to do what we want, when we want to is a cultural pattern that needs to change if we truly want

to have an equitable footprint as global citizens. The UO Outdoor Program and the Obsidians outdoor club are two examples of groups that car/vanpool to destinations inaccessible by city bus.

Robin Quirke  
Eugene

## DEFECTIVE STONEMWORK

Regarding the news story "Problems in Historic Stonework at Spencer Butte" May 8: There were 70 instances of defective work performed by the contractor as defined by the contract specifications. The article referred to "70 design flaws" instead.

The project cost taxpayers over \$25,000. Critical structural elements that were specified such as below-grade stone foundation work, thickness of stone walls, proper "keying in" or masonry bonding of stones are non-existent or greatly lacking.

Face stones have already begun to fall out of the structure. Premature costly repairs are to be expected.

While he ignores addressing the bulk of the defective work, [contract manager Jesse] Cary-Hobbs says he let the contractor not meet some required specifications "because the contractor had encountered some difficulties with the stone." So let me get this correct: The city hired stonemasons who couldn't competently work the stone that the stonemasons themselves provided for the project as part of the contract.

A public works bid like this is supposed to give a level playing field to all contractors qualified to bid. We all bid

# ROLLER DERBY



LAST BOUT OF THE SEASON!

2014 CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT!

MAY 31 6PM

LANE EVENTS CENTER

OPENING BOUT:  
CHURCH OF SK8IN vs AIR RAID (HILLSBORO)

CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT:  
FLAT TRACK FURIES vs ANDROMEDOLLS



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