

SLANT

• As Tom Wolf once wrote, “a grand jury would indict a ham sandwich.” But apparently a **grand jury won’t indict a cop**. On Nov. 24, a grand jury in Missouri did not indict police officer Darren Wilson for shooting and killing Michael Brown, an 18-year-old unarmed black man. As riots erupt in Ferguson again and across the country, we support both the anger of the protesters and the calls for peace. Before we criticize angry citizens and activists for their actions, remember the legacy of violence of those with power and weapons against those without, not just in the South but also around the world. What if the officer was black and he shot an unarmed white kid? What would the reaction be?

• The fight to protect the **Amazon Headwaters** from development has been going on for about 15 years and we are pleased to see this special and environmentally sensitive area will be preserved as natural parkland for generations to come. Recently, it looked like some new investors, Dynasty Holdings, would be able to develop the property or at least sell it to developers and turn a profit. In the end, the speculators agreed to \$1.75 million for the three parcels, perhaps in part because of the big expense of developing the steep land with its creeks and wetlands. Plus, litigation was likely. Regardless of the reasons, the people of Eugene finally won this hard-fought battle. Kudos to all those who have fought to protect this fragile land, including citizens, city staff and members of the Eugene City Council.

• We came away from the City Club of Eugene panel Nov. 21 on implementation of **Oregon’s new marijuana law** with the obvious strategy for D’s to win in 2016. Turnout of eligible voters in Oregon hit 70 percent, probably the highest in the country. Those voters increased the D majority in the Legislature, reelected the shaky D governor, sent Jeff Merkley and all our Democratic congressmen back to Washington. So lefty strategists should put marijuana measures on every possible state ballot in November 2016. Guaranteed to bring out young, more liberal voters. Or are we living in an Oregon blue bubble?

• The latest *Rolling Stone* has a bone-chilling investigative piece on **sexual violence** in University of Virginia fraternities. Seattle papers are talking about a hazing “incident” in a University of Washington fraternity so serious that the fraternity and all its members have been suspended by the national organization. Nobody is describing the facts of the case, but depositions will bring them out. We wonder when college administrators will own these problems on their campuses and act with real courage.

• **The UO is getting hit hard with criticism** for its hamfisted attempt to deal with the impending graduate teaching fellow strike. The GTFF union is asking, quite reasonably, for things like paid medical and parental leave for its members who, while technically working part-time, end up working at least 40 hours a week with classes, research and teaching employment. This leaves them with no time to take on additional jobs, and in many cases, they rely on what the university pays them. A secret UO memorandum has made the rounds on the internet and all the way to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The memo encourages other employees or former employees be scabs and take on the instructional work normally performed by graduate fellows, saying it could be handled by adjunct instructors, non-union grad students, recently retired faculty members or qualified administrators who volunteer. It also suggests that students be given the option of not taking final examinations or that such tests be reformatted to make them easier to grade. The UO’s faculty Senate voted last week to rebuke the administration for bypassing the faculty and for encouraging “the dilution and degradation of teaching standards.” A for the faculty; UO administration, you fail.

• **Bunny the rescued pitbull** we wrote about back in October has a home for the holidays. Mandy DeGuc of SevaDog Rescue tells us that not only does Bunny have a home, but as a result of *EW*’s article, five other pups were re-homed. Bunny got internet-famous when the emotional video of her rescue from the California desert went viral. If you see her video on Facebook or one of the many sites that picked it up, know that a rescue right here in Eugene got her a home.

SLANT INCLUDES SHORT OPINION PIECES, OBSERVATIONS AND RUMOR-CHASING NOTES COMPILED BY THE *EW* STAFF. HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS LATELY? CONTACT TED TAYLOR AT 484-0519, EDITOR@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

NEWS

AVANT GARDENERS CELEBRATE KALE AND COMMUNITY

The leafy green is good for salads, good for stir-fry and, as the Eugene Avant Gardeners believe, good for building community.

Kale is a rising star in the food world, and to celebrate this cool weather crop the Avant Gardeners are organizing the first annual Kale Fest Dec. 5-7, devoted to promoting local food, gardening and kale.

“It’s using food to create community,” says Plaedo Wellman, co-organizer of Kale Fest and a member of the Avant Gardeners, a sustainable gardening group.

Kale Fest 2014 will include panel discussions, a potluck, a kale art gallery and workshops about bioregionalism and how to grow kale.

An important theme of the event is food justice. “Food scarcity is not a foreign thing,” says Ben Riley, co-organizer of the event and also a member of Avant-Gardeners. “It’s here in this country, in this city.”

Riley says the group hopes to “bring awareness” to the social issues and discuss ways in which the entire community can be fed with local food.

Kale is quickly gaining popularity in the Eugene area, particularly among gardeners and backyard farmers. “Kale is huge,” Adam Cole of Down to Earth

Home and Garden tells *EW*. “It has been for the last couple of years.”

Dinosaur kale, also known as Tuscan kale or lacinato kale, has a dark green color and blistered, scale-like leaves. “Dinosaur kale has increased in popularity substantially,” Cole says. “It’s easier to work with and tastier.” Dino kale and other varieties, Cole says, actually become sweeter in cooler weather.

At FOOD For Lane County’s Grassroots Garden, kale is an important winter crop. “Now is the perfect time to be eating kale because we just had these freezes,” says the garden’s coordinator, Merry Bradley.

Kale chips are easy to make and “a way to get young people comfortable just snacking,” Bradley says. Tear the leaves into chunks, add oil and salt and bake at 300 degrees until crisp. Since kale is so sweet this time of year, it’s perfect for salad. Slice kale thinly and mix in apple chunks, pumpkin seeds and lemon-rice vinaigrette, Bradley says.

“Kale has developed its own celebrity status,” Wellman says. “Let’s celebrate kale as a local crop that’s important in our area.”

The inaugural Kale Fest runs Dec. 5-7 all over town, including Dharmalaya, 356 Horn Ln., the UO campus, The Boreal, 450 W. 3rd Ave., and the Old Whiteaker Firehouse, 1045 W. 1st Ave. For those interested in volunteering, see Kale Fest’s Facebook page for more info. — *Daemion Lee*

A VOTE FOR WAYNE MORSE IS A VOTE FOR A COOL STATUE

Travel to Washington, D.C. and venture into the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building, and you will see Oregon represented by historical luminaries John McLoughlin and Jason Lee. For those who are unaware of who those men were, McLoughlin was a fur trader who helped immigrants along the Oregon Trail, and Lee was one of the first Methodist missionaries to travel across the United States along the Oregon Trail.

If those men don’t ring a bell for you, you’re not the only one, and now Oregonians have a chance to pick new statues. Abbie Stillie, communications coordinator for the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, tells *EW* that “there is talk of replacing Oregon’s statues in the National Statuary Hall.” She says, “The commission to pick out new statues is taking a vote, and Wayne Morse is on the ballot.” Voting is open until Dec. 1.

The Wayne Morse Center is trying to get out the vote, Stillie says. And she says she thinks that “lots of Eugeneans might be interested in getting Wayne Morse back to D.C.”

Sen. Wayne Morse was far more than a guy whose Wayne Morse Ranch is a popular dog park and wedding spot. Morse spoke out against the Vietnam War and was one of only two senators who opposed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which authorized the president to take military action in Vietnam without a declaration of war.

The fiery senator’s uncompromising positions on the Vietnam War, civil rights, free speech, the powers of Congress and putting people before corporations earned him nicknames like The Tiger of the Senate, The Conscience of the Senate, Mr. Education and Maverick.

The current state ballot is remarkably diverse, and in addition to Morse includes Chief Joseph (Heinmot Tooyalakekt); Ing Hay, a Chinese immigrant and doctor; Sen. Mark O. Hatfield; Linus Pauling; and suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway, to name a few. Go to wkly.ws/1ul to see the full ballot and vote. — *Camilla Mortensen*

