



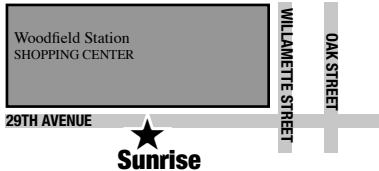
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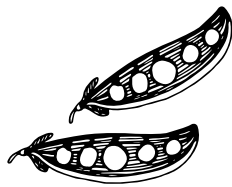
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LETTERS

all and architectural barriers do not exist. Disabled accessible and affordable housing is available in every neighborhood and a recreation program that does not lock us into one rec center or ghettoize us away from the abled bodied.

I dream of a bus system that serves all disabled people, not just those in wheelchairs, and pays our medical bills when we get hurt. An LTD that includes seatbelts for the seats up front and child safety seats for all children who need them in cars, and secures walkers and rolling carts to the floor. A police department that enforces traffic and smoking ordinances rather than just hassling homeless people. Benches at all bus stops and a warm place to wait hours for buses that never seem to come on Sundays. An LTD that is responsible to the wishes of residents.

A city where businesses are ashamed to fly Confederate flags and where the white majority is ashamed to behave in racist ways when no persons of color are present; that supports the Equal Rights Amendment and sexual minorities and does not just give lip service to equality for all.

But I guess these are just pipe dreams because Eugene and Lane County are so filled with violations of human rights I doubt it will ever get better. The Ducks, football and the almighty dollar are so much more important.

Marianna Cathryn Glenday
Eugene

TIS THE SEASON

Trees on top of vehicles / Like slain deer / Cars moving stealthily on highways / Like cougars tracking their prey / Tis the season.

The whole scene falls short of what it's after: / Peace and serenity. / "Soft moonlit snowfall" / Is jarred by flashing neon figurines / Disproportionate expectations / Feelings of inadequacy / I sense the wounded around me.

Those for whom the cheer brings out painful memories / Those who are lost and lonely / Those who have barely enough to eat / Let alone jewels or treats for their children.

I enjoy the candles and quiet / Circumvent the excess / I remain connected to loved ones / And wait patiently for the calendar to turn.

Lorri Goodman
Eugene

POOCHES ON THE LOOSE

Echoing a letter that appeared in these pages a few weeks back, I am tired of the selfishness of Eugene's dog owners with regards to keeping their animals leashed. Just now, riding my bike home on Van Buren past Adams Elementary School, I heard barking and turned to see a dog charging after me into the street. Fortunately, I was already going fairly fast and was able to get away. That being said, the Friendly neighborhood is full of families. What if I had a child in a seat, or in a trailer? What was only a moment of panic for me could have resulted in serious injury for another cyclist or pedestrian. I

don't care how well behaved or friendly your dog is, keep it on a leash in public. It is selfish, rude and (as in cases like this) shows a lack of consideration for your pet's wellbeing, as well as that of others.

Eric Devin
Eugene

GRAND POETRY

Once again, Sally Sheklow's column Dec. 24 cut through cultural miasma with incisive commentary — and in such a joyful way! I appreciate learning what I cannot know from my own experience. Thank you!

Now, with apologies to you and Clement Clark Moore:

Sal, thanks again for your grand poetry / and reminder of straight Xmas effrontery / Whatever my friends' choice of holiday / and no matter if they are gay, straight or queer / I wholeheartedly wish them a "Happy New Year!"

Robin Cushman
Eugene

RADIATION ABOUNDS

We are bombarded by radio frequency (RF) /magnetic radiation supporting computers, iPads, cell phones, cell towers and locations that provide wi-fi to others. Electric wiring is also a source, as are radios and TVs. All these small doses accumulate over time.

Now, we learn that much larger doses in the form of "smart meters" (electric, gas and water) will be added to the mix! Each one will send signals through our homes and businesses that will also be receiving signals from each of our "smart" appliances. Your main meter may also be receiving signals from a dozen or more buildings in the area, passing them on to the collector nearby. In this way, it's possible that one household could experience 11,000 or more tiny bursts of radiation daily.

With a cell phone or computer I can decide how and when, or not to use them. The difference here is I cannot choose when or how often these meters will be sending radiation through me, my home or my surroundings! There is exhaustive evidence that even small doses of non-ionizing radiation will cause deformities of human DNA. What will accumulation of ever more doses do to us?

EWEB wants to use smart meters to save money by cutting jobs, at the expense of our health and the lawsuits that follow. Demand a moratorium on and public discussion of the health and financial risks of smart meters, now!

Robin Bloomgarden
Eugene

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