

BEHEADING MICKEY

Can we start taking responsibility for our own lives? I mean no disrespect to Sarah or Trinity [Letters, 1/22], but it is not the job of the *EW* to babysit other people's children. Most of the people in this area know that the *EW* is a newspaper that looks at all sorts of things from war, politics, LGBT issues, Slug Queens and a lot of more risqué issues — but we draw the line at beheaded Mickey?

For as long as I have occasionally read *EW*, not once has it appeared to me as a newspaper whose target demo was that of the 18-month to 4-year-old crowd. With all due respect: Where were you when the kid was looking at the paper? If they aren't the types to shield their kids from the world, then they have to realize that there are things out there that aren't meant for kids. Do your own parenting.

James Ready
Springfield

KEEP PRETENDING

The (French) Enlightenment promised an Age of Enlightenment, a world without religious superstition or intolerance. What happened in Paris is one more reminder of the falsity of that claim for the future.

The other Enlightenment projection was that science and technology would usher a brave new world of progress. But the Machine now imperils the biosphere itself, as everyone knows by now, as well as providing an ever more flattened, homogenized, globalized life-world.

The murderous fundamentalists now at work on every continent are not enemies of civilization. They are its product. The ruinous emptiness of mass techno-culture is removing any authentic community and terrorism — including our family slaughters and school shootings — is the result.

But, hey, let's keep on voting and otherwise pretending.

John Zerzan
Eugene

ROLLING KARMA

To the inbred junkie loser who stole my bike from my backyard on 52nd Street in Springfield: My crystal-waving, Birkenstock-wearing pacifist friends tell me karma is a wheel. I hope that's true. I hope you're riding my bike when you get run over by the wheels of the bus I am now forced to ride because you stole my bike.

D.S. Hall
Springfield

EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM

Thank you for the Jan. 15 Viewpoint by Justin Workman regarding the effects of herbicide spraying. A link to the article has been posted on the Earth Liberation Front website. I am 74 years old now and it makes me very sad to realize that the spraying has actually increased since my group formed 37 years ago. I'm glad that

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Justin and S.T.O.P. aren't going off the deep end like I and so many others have done over the decades. Working within the system to effect meaningful change is the only way to go. Thanks for passing the word.

John Hanna
Coquille

DISMAL CONTEST

It was a narrow escape. Oregon football was about to dip down to the level of a football factory before Ohio State ended those pretensions. I've been there before when I was on the athletics staff at Northwestern University. A dynasty was forming there, of all places, when it won successive games on the road in Ohio Stadium against Woody Hayes-coached teams that were superior to the Buckeyes who beat Oregon in a dismal "championship" game.

Ara Parseghian, probably the greatest of all football coaches, transformed the Wildcats from doormats to No. 1 national ranking. He also led them to four straight victories over the dominant football team of that era, Notre Dame. So Notre Dame hired him away to be its coach. There ended Northwestern's frightening move toward becoming a football factory.

The UO will be best served by shifting its focus to become more of an educational institution like Northwestern than a football embarrassment like Ohio State.

George Beres
Eugene

POPE MARCUS?

Let's hope this adoration of Marcus Mariota ends soon. The way people are carrying on you'd think he was the incarnation of the baby Jesus. Will we see Autzen Stadium renamed Marcus Mariota Stadium? The University of Oregon renamed the University of Marcus Mariota?

C'mon, after all, he did lose the biggest football game of the year.

Mike Quigley
Junction City

DANCE COVERAGE

Thank you for your column "The Spin." I really appreciate dance being covered as a local art and it helps me to find performances to attend! I'll be going to the UO Dance Africa performance because of this — without it I would have missed it.

Joshua Dallman
Eugene

VOLCANO MULCHING

If you visit our lovely [Owen Memorial] Rose Garden soon, you will find a large tree that has broken at its base and fallen toward the river. While I'm no arborist, upon closer inspection of the tree, it seems to be healthy enough. What concerns me is the excessively thick "volcano" cone of mulch they have piled right around the base of the now dead tree.

When you look around this particular park, most of the trees have been improperly mulched in the same manner, and this is a great way to lose ALL the trees

in this area to the same fate. You can see the trapped moisture rising up the bark. If you dig in the deep piles of wood chips, you will find bugs and mold.

Volcano mulching will stress and kill trees; roots suffocate and rot. Excess trapped moisture invites disease, molds, parasites and other pests. Piling wood mulch right against the trunk creates such constant wet conditions that the tree cannot survive. Was the city parks department involved in this? Do they have an arborist who can resolve the mismanagement and save our trees? I'm surprised the talented group of gardeners who manage this garden have not addressed this sooner.

Tiffany Stewart
Eugene

HEALTH CARE RALLY

On Feb. 11, Health Care for All-Oregon is having a massive rally in Salem to make sure we acquire our right, an expanded Medicare for all in our state.

The rally starts at 11 am at the Capitol and buses will be leaving Shopko on Coburg Road at 9 am. This will also be an opportunity to lobby our respective legislators so that one of the inherent insecurities of living is no longer an issue.

When illnesses or accidents arise, those affected directly are in no condition to negotiate financial matters related to life-or-death circumstances. People often make choices that are the cause of their financial ruin. Medical emergencies are the number one cause of bankruptcies in the U.S. Business is hindered because employers and employees are held back by an antiquated way of doing things, which gives a third or more of the money available to insurance and pharmaceutical companies. Because consumers as a whole are denied the right to negotiate the price paid for drugs, medications often cost hundreds of times more than possible. Single-payer as we are demanding would still give us choice of private doctors, but the number of middle people in the way would be reduced to one payer: the government. The proceeds would be from progressive (not flat) taxes and in essence would not be more than the vast majority of the "pool" now pays.

We need your involvement! To come along, contact patbitner@gmail.com.

David Ivan Piccioni
Eugene

ABUSE EXPOSED

The Dec. 24 *EW* had a news brief called "Local Wildlife Documentary Gets Big Praise." I finally got around to watching the 30-minute video. WOW, everyone needs to see this.

Exposed can be viewed on the Predator Defense website at predatordefense.org/exposed and is well worth passing around. Thank you, *EW*, for writing this story.

Rouanna Garden
Eugene

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