

brought about suicidal thoughts, lack of sleep, depression, negative feelings, hate, desperation, illness, ill will, depreciation of property with long-term residents vested in the Whiteaker looking at options to sell their homes and dreams just to escape the noise. I haven't been in my yard or used the hot tub since last February.

On Feb. 2, Ridge held a meeting at the administration building for those affected to meet with the sound engineer. Neighbors were not given ample notice nor may not have received an invitation because their contact information was not available to Ninkasi. However, three neighbors along with Whiteaker Community Council Chair Sam Hahn attended. Currently, the project has been stalled due to the bankruptcy of the steel manufacturer. This project is complex with very few companies able to meet the standards required. We are assured that they are working on finding someone to finish the project.

I want Ninkasi to buy my home so that I can get on with my life. I want out of the dodgeball lineup.

Marcia Kne
Eugene

PIZZA FRISK

Last Tuesday [2/10] I went to Cozmic to see a band. As I walked through the door to pay the cover, I noticed two security guards fully clad in near-military style black garments, one with an American flag strapped to his chest and the other wielding

a metal detector. One of these security guards had a gentleman with his hands against the wall, searching him near his genital area. I immediately asked for my money back and left promptly.

Is there really a need for security at such a venue? If someone was driven to terrorize, I can guarantee these two security guards couldn't have stopped it. What is the difference between someone going down the street to Sizzle Pie, walking in and causing harm to its patrons?

The mentality of the police state has become so infectious that hordes of people, simply going in to a local pizza joint, will willfully subject themselves to grave violations of their personal space and gross infringements on our natural-born, God-given, self-evident rights. Next time you walk into a Pizza Hut and order a Stuffed Crust Supreme, just imagine how good that pizza would taste if you just had your private parts handled by a stranger.

Marty Leeds
Eugene

THE ETHOS OF MONEY

Thank you, Philip Goss ["Violating Whose Rights?" letter, 2/12], for demonstrating the intolerance, privilege and hypocrisy that typifies the dark side of those who wear the badge of "American values" on their chest.

While there are many decent business owners downtown and legitimate problems they face, it seems that "primacy of profit" and "money equals rights" is a growing

ethos, as the exclusion zone grows with more classes of people being added to the list of those not welcomed downtown.

A previous writer on these pages likened downtown to a theme park. After the privatization of sidewalks, what's next? Building a fence around downtown and charging admission? This in a town where a quarter of the residents live in poverty? It's hard not to see this as part of the growing economic bifurcation of society. But there are better solutions than economic discrimination.

Jim Stauffer
Eugene

MULTIPLE CRITERIA

I can't be your wingman, because I am a grammar Nazi single lady. But, Camilla [Mortensen], criteria is plural, criterion is singular. I was disappointed to see in only the second paragraph of the article, "Your Grammar Needs a Wingman," Feb. 12, that you said "criteria even seems" instead of "seem." Trying to give the benefit of the doubt, I was horrified to read, about halfway through, the phrase "that criteria."

Remember glass houses.

Cheryl K. Smith
Cheshire

EDITOR'S NOTE: Criteria has been commonly used as a singular noun for decades and is now considered acceptable (even if not proper) in conversation and most media. Data is another example of an evolving word; the singular "datum" is rarely used today.

CUTTING CARBON

I am so excited by the possibilities that this carbon bill could bring [see story on Tom Bowerman's Climate Stability and Justice Act, 1/29]. For too long I have been sitting around waiting for Oregon to be the progressive green state that we all want it to be. Our use of sustainable resources is astonishing. Currently, less than 1 percent of our energy is coming from the sun, and I think that is embarrassing. We need to be promoting many more bills like this that will increase our uses of sustainable energy sources if we ever want to become a leader in environmental action.

Caitlin Feely
Eugene

CLAIM RELIGION

To Geoffrey Barrett [Letters, 2/12] and any other parents who wish to withhold their children from participating in the ever-increasing number of standardized tests at public schools: You *can* claim the religious exemption. The state defines religion as "a set of beliefs," and it is illegal for any part of the government (including the school district) to ask what your religion is. Certainly you do have a set of beliefs which is guiding your decision, so you are not lying. All you have to do is tell the school "I claim the religious exemption," and they will have to abide by your decision not to have your children participate in standardized testing.

Sharon Blick
Eugene



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From the Big Bang to Black Holes:
Time, the Universe, and Everything

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HEALTHY FOOD ON A BUDGET



FREE TALK & DISCUSSION
Tonight! Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for this FREE talk and learn how to get your family all the nutrients their bodies need without breaking the bank. Desi Mantey, Founder and Executive Director of The Fit & Well Coalition, will look at common unhealthy foods we feed our kids and economic options that are much healthier choices.

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