

Bird studies have found that “one out of every two (window) strikes results in a fatality.” Birds that fly away often die of trauma. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology says putting up small-mesh crop netting saves lives. The sooner the pavilion is bird-friendly, the easier the pinot gris will go down. That’s the wine that made them famous, except among the birds.

Chris Piché  
Eugene

## RANDOM THOUGHTS

Yes, gaining historic status is no easy task in Eugene — especially for trees. Apparently 50 years old is not very old for a tree, so cutting down a whole lot of them in Eugene for the EmX is justified. Like, it’s so easy to raise very, very old trees now in Eugene, since there’s plenty of rain all year long. In no time at all, 30-year-old trees and 50-year-old trees will pop up like magic.

Oh, and Common Core: Apparently that’s why all the charter schools are popping up, so they can avoid having to

use Common Core. I can see how effective Common Core is: It has all the parents and children running the opposite direction.

And that’s so “democratic” of the mayor to hold a public outreach meeting at Grocery Outlet, since that is where all her taxpayers have to shop. She really knows her constituents, doesn’t she?

I have to compliment Eugene and Lane County for finally getting another call center of low-paid jobs for some big company in India. Remember the good old days, when it was just the opposite?

I got a good friend of mine just to register to vote “no” in the upcoming election for the proposed \$35 vehicle registration fee. Even people who never vote on anything are coming out of the woodwork to vote “no.” Have you ever asked the staff at Walmart how much their shoplifting has gone up? They raised all their prices because of shoplifting. Nobody has any money, and you’re going to tax these people \$35 for their broken-down cars?

I really value all the marijuana advertisements. I know where to get my

next hit, but that all depends on how much shoplifting I can do there.

Sincerely, I am a fan of *EW*. Keep up the good work, especially “Savage Love,” the best column in the paper.

Terrance Smith  
Eugene

## RAISE THE STANDARDS

When Sen. Ron Wyden held a town hall meeting at Sheldon High School recently many people got to express their opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership. I asked him this question:

“The TPP would turn over American sovereign interests to 600 international corporations accountable only to profit. Since Congress, the Legislature and the president don’t have any authority over them, don’t you think supporting the TPP is un-American?”

His answer was that Free Trade Agreements would allow free flow in and out of the U.S. and that this could set up Oregon

as a manufacturer of goods sold worldwide.

The problem with this answer is that without protections for workers, consumers and the environment, jobs will flow to wherever the workforce gets paid the least and workers have less rights. This is exactly what FTAs engender. So to achieve what he proposes, Oregon would have to lower its wages!

The only solution which would be best for all to achieve is raising the standards worldwide. Minimum wage in the U.S. should be a *livable wage*. If the same happens in other countries, no one will be exploited and the pyramid metaphor of a few billionaires on top and millions of poor people at the bottom will be replaced by less economic extremes.

Hard work would still be rewarded, but the wealth of states and countries would express more justice. This is what the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network (ESSN) works towards.

David Ivan Piccioni  
ESSN Board member

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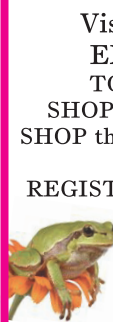
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