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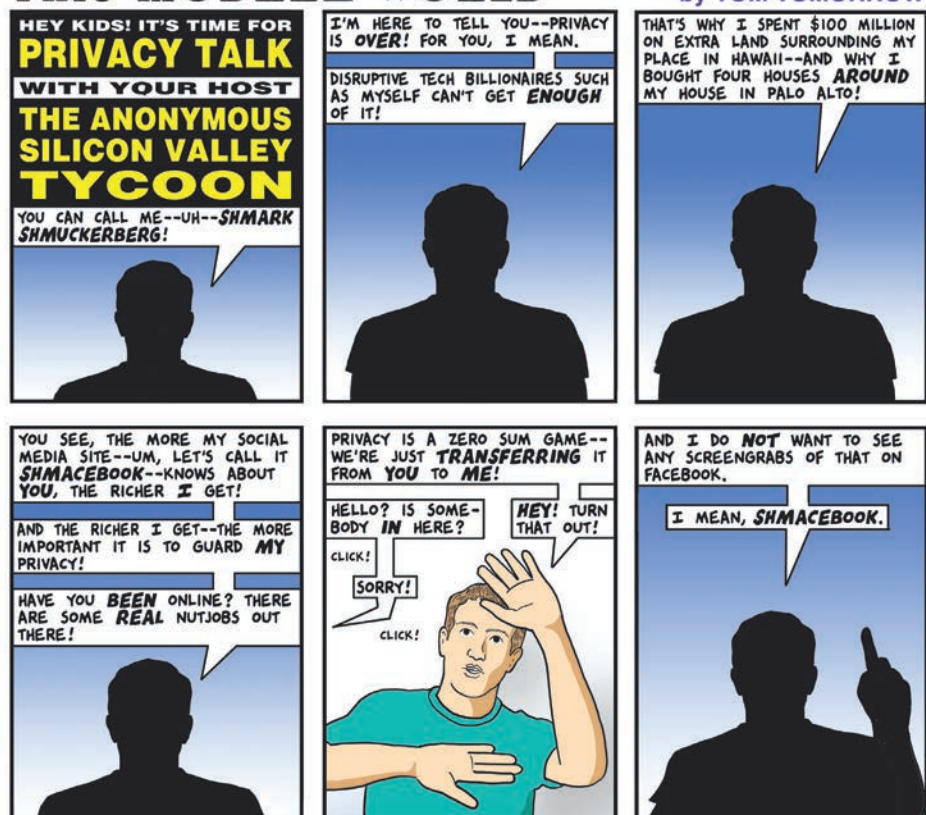
Monday-Saturday 10-6
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LETTERS

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



ONLY ONE OF MANY

I am writing to applaud Camilla Mortensen's as always thorough, informed and situated story May 28 about sexual assault survivors and the UO. The article demonstrates how sadly typical it is for something truly terrible to happen before anything is done that could prevent future tragedies. The UO, caught between worries about perceptions of prospective students, their parents and, above everyone else, donors, hoped this would just go away. It did not.

In this case, as in so many others, it isn't just bad news — it is real human suffering that gets silenced and ultimately lost in policies, legal review and institutional betrayal of those who live and work at the UO (see Jennifer Freyd's exceptional work on this). Laura Hanson is bold and brave, but sadly only one of the many victims of these kinds of crimes and concealments at this and other college campuses.

While the UO is busily adding staff, these problems persist. Needed is a real effort to reveal how our culture teaches and privileges aggression in men (an emphasis on always winning in sports doesn't help), mass media that uses sex to sell everything and true, confidential support systems independent of the university.

Debra Merskin
Eugene

STORIES OF COURAGE

I would like to thank Camilla Mortensen for her cover story "Dragged Through

the Mud" May 28. This is an informative article handled with grace and integrity. The courage it takes for Laura Hanson (and Brenda Tracy and other individuals who spoke out in the article) to go public with her experience and the treatment she received from the University of Oregon is immeasurable.

This article, coupled with Jon Karakauer's *Missoula*, should be required reading by students, administrators and parents of students at the UO as well as any other institute of higher learning. What happened in Missoula has been happening on university and college campuses all over the nation. This article is direct testimony of this fact. My hope is that this article is picked up by other news sources and gets wide distribution for its authenticity and its ongoing support of an issue that has, until just recently, been silenced.

Thank you EW, Camilla and the survivors of sexual assault who are speaking out on this extreme violation, beginning with the sexual assault and ending with the institutional betrayal of the university. Accessing counseling records without consent or without a subpoena, really?

Betsy Pownall
Eugene

DISSERVICE TO SURVIVORS

As a mother and a survivor of sexual assault, ever since your May 28 issue hit the newsstands, I have avoided all public spaces where it is stocked, usually at

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