

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



is important that their stories are heard! But, this cannot be at the expense of those most affected by the issues. The ends, in this case, do not justify the means.

John Watts
Cheshire

SECOND-HAND POT

I support Mardel Chinburg's Viewpoint June 4; however, her comment that "proposed regulations prohibit pot smoking and use in public places — indoors and out" seems to me somewhat naive. In the years I have lived in this community I have never seen any attempt to curb public pot use. I suggest anyone take a stroll through downtown Eugene to smell what I'm referring to and observe the gendarmerie turning a blind eye.

I sincerely doubt there will be any change as "regulations" simply won't be enforced. In Colorado and Washington, public pot use is prohibited — their laws aren't enforced, either. Eugene is now and seemingly always has been pot central, so in my opinion it's doubly doubtful anti-public-use laws here will be enforced.

When even kids are allowed to set up cookie sale tables immediately adjacent to the entry of a so-called medical marijuana dispensary (see media reporting on last spring's Girl Scout cookie sales efforts), the attitudes in favor of any and all kinds of pot use are clearly so entrenched that no "regulations" are going to change those attitudes.

Once July hits, I think Chinburg and everyone else can count on encountering increased pot smoke in the elevators and lobbies of office buildings, in and around retail establishments, in public parks and parking lots, on buses and even inside some workplaces. For those of us severely allergic to pot, it is every bit as much of a challenge as avoiding secondhand tobacco smoke. For those of us whose asthma triggers include pot smoke, we live daily on a wing and a prayer that we won't need our rescue inhalers during any given outing.

Sarah Katherine Moore
Coburg

A CORPORATE TOOL

Jerry Ritter of Springfield [Letters, 6/4] seems to misunderstand the meaning of what Ann Kneeland wrote on May 21 when she spoke about "local communities deciding what's best for themselves." She was speaking about the people who live in a community being affected by state preemption (cancellation of locally enacted laws) as a corporate tool, not about local government actions, per se.

All governments are certainly part of the overall problem, but you and I — the people living in an area who could be directly harmed by some harm coming from outside — are the real community, and should be able to have a direct say in how we are affected by it, don't you think?

Recent examples of harms include the Seavey Loop sellout by some county commissioners, the leveling of Parvin Butte, Lane County Commission giving away water for business profits during a drought, the state preempting anti-GMO laws, and I could go on. We see it every day, and as far as I'm concerned, local people *must* take back the reins of government and its subservience to corporate interests. Community Rights Lane County is a group of ordinary citizens working to address these issues. Please visit us at communityrightslanecounty.org for more info.

Robin Bloomgarden
Eugene

PRESERVING HISTORY

An open letter to the Eugene City Council: On behalf of the city of Eugene's Historic Review Board, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your support through this year's purchase of Civic Stadium by the Eugene Civic Alliance. We truly appreciate the efforts of you, Mayor Piercy and the individuals and groups involved with the alliance on the successful purchase of the stadium property from 4J School District!

For over 40 years the seven-member Historic Review Board has been involved in setting preservation goals for the city of

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