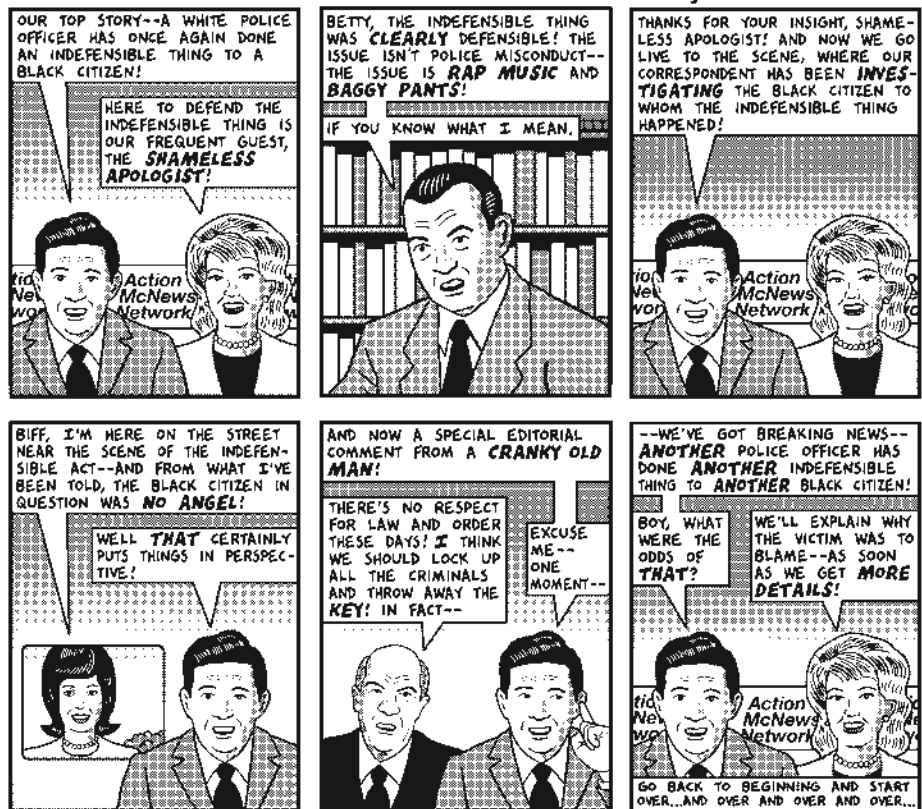


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



“Empathy Tent” will be open from 10 am to 4 pm this weekend at Saturday Market.

Come by to be listened to, to be heard in a deep, non-judgemental way. It is free and sessions last approximately 20 to 40 minutes.

Look for us in the west block of Saturday Market on the first aisle in from the south. It's a tent and there will be a sign-up sheet outside. We'll hear whatever you bring, from troubles or mourning to celebrations and joy.

Mark Roberts
Eugene

MORONIC ACCOUNTING

I read recently that our “thrifty” city government is thinking of another levy to help, amongst others, our public library stay open longer hours. I like that idea. I am a truck driver and use the audio book section a good deal on my sojourns up and down I-5. Sometimes I am a day or two late returning items, but what does that matter as those fees go to the library I enjoy supporting.

But wait — what do you mean those fees don't go to the library? The general fund?! I get it — just like the feds, you raise “easy come” funds, then spend them on anything other than where they came from, then expect us to bail you out because you are bad at math.

Well sorry, but I've had enough of this crazy accounting. It's moronic. Oh and by the way, for the record, I'm a liberal.

Peter Tildesley
Eugene

TOXIC ZIP CODE

Smoking tobacco is hazardous. It causes lung cancer and mouth disease, and it aggravates pre-existing respiratory conditions. To breathe secondhand smoke is to breathe in a large number of known carcinogens.

Exhaust fumes from gas motor vehicles are dangerous, too. They expel nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide and fine air particulates — all of which contribute to asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis

and cancer. Acute effects include nausea, light-headedness, cough and phlegm congestion. Diesel exhaust, such as that from commercial trucks and trains, is particularly detrimental to health.

Residents living in Eugene's Trainsong neighborhood have suffered a disproportionate accumulation of fine air particulates due to their proximity to the train yard, for example. They have a higher rate of cancer than is considered normal. Their schools and parks are located near the train yard.

Industrial emissions in Eugene also pollute our air. According to a 2010-2011 study by Eugene Toxics Right-To-Know, our industries emit zinc compounds, acetone, methanol, xylene and toluene, among other things, into the air. In its research, 99.9 percent of all emissions came from industries located in the 97402 zip code.

I can agree that secondhand cigarette smoke is harmful. But I cannot agree that it is so harmful that we need to ban smoking in public areas. Standing on the sidewalk downtown, the thin line of smoke circling out of a cigarette has little repercussion in comparison to the toxins emitted from the exhaust pipes of passing and idling vehicles. And just imagine how difficult breathing would be if you lived near industry.

So let the smokers smoke. We fixed the air pollution problem they created by pushing them outdoors. For those worried about the mal effects of smoke on public health, push for real legislation on behalf of people living in at-risk Eugene neighborhoods. Or protect air quality for everyone — cap carbon and protect forests.

Nicole Medema
Eugene

SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the U.S., and most suicides are a result of untreated mental illness. We know today that more research, advocacy and education can help prevent these needless deaths. Like so many others, I know about this personally because I have lost a

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KAITLYN SAGE-PEG MAJOR Director, ROBERT ASHENS Music Director, CAITLIN CHRISTOPHER Choreographer

June 19, 20, 26 & 27 at 7:30 pm
June 21 & 28 at 2:00 pm matinee
The Shedd Institute
868 High Street, Eugene
541.434.7000 - theshedd.org/HowToSucceed

