

grandfather, father and brother to suicide.

For too long, suicide has been swept under the rug while families have been made to feel ashamed for losing a loved one to mental illness. Now, some solutions may be within our grasp. For example, studies have shown that placing additional barriers on bridges reduces the number of suicides. Once deterred, people often do not try again, and their suicides just never happen.

I'm traveling to Washington, D.C., later this month to tell my members of Congress how important this issue is to me. If you suffer from depression or anxiety — or you know someone who does — take five minutes right now to call your congressional representatives at (202) 224-3121 and tell them to make suicide prevention a national priority.

You might just save a life.

*Sara K. Scofield
Eugene*

REVISIT THE FIRING

On the topic of the Springfield basketball coach firing [Bill Wagner]: Who are you to believe, the greatest girls high school basketball player to come out of this area (and likely the state) or the parent who everyone in the stands thinks is a pain? I hope someone on the Springfield School Board has the courage to say, "Let's revisit this decision, as the community is asking."

*Don French
Eugene*

PENETRATION GAME

One of the most fascinating expressions of the rape culture is spectator sports. Football at the line of scrimmage, for instance. The players line up. On the one side (offense) players are planning to penetrate the territory of the others. The others of course are planning to repel the expected attempt. Rigorous training leads up to this encounter and emotions will be running at hurricane pitch. Offense is urgently eager to gain even a few yards. Defense, if they can't intercept, yearns to throw the trespassers for a loss. The crowd loves it.

Rapist and rapee switch roles throughout the game, signified by possession of the sacred object (the ball). The game is a lot of fun because the ordinary rules governing physical interactions are replaced by ones that allow players to slam into each other really hard. (Man, I can think of some bodies I would like to slam into really hard!) A squad of alert officials trot along with the players, ready with the whistle should an infraction occur.

So this rape game is super popular with many adults. The most dramatic moments of the game occurs at the consumations, the touchdowns. The rapee's territory is penetrated all the way the goal. The courageous exertions of the defenders to prevent that penetration have come to naught. The extra point kick is good. Successful rapers slap each other on the butt in congratulatory affection. The others wanted to keep us from advancing the

sacred object into their endzone, but we did it anyway, they tell themselves with delight.

*David Hugh Tyson
Eugene*

DENYING REALITY

Are we all climate deniers at heart? Are we really terrible procrastinators as individuals when it comes to making the changes needed? Do our leaders appear to be going in the wrong direction with climate carbon reduction?

Greg McPherson, Ph.D., professor emeritus of natural resources at University of Arizona, will give us new thoughts on how we can deal with the coming catastrophe, and it is a catastrophe! Nobel Prize-winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman has stated despondently, "No amount of psychological awareness will overcome people's reluctance to lower their standard of living."

Come hear McPherson's uplifting answer to this quandary at 7 pm Wednesday, June 24, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 13th and Chambers.

*Ruth Duemler
Eugene*

LOGGING BUFORD PARK

Lane County Parks (LCP) plans to log 145 acres of the Howard Buford Recreation Area, aka Buford Park or Mount Pisgah, this summer. LCP won't do the logging but rather its surrogate manager Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah (FBP) will

contract out the logging using an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant of \$108,000. This project is part of a vision articulated in the draft Habitat Management Plan that will attempt to recreate throughout the park grassland and oak savanna habitat conditions common in the Willamette Valley when Euro-American settlers first arrived and aboriginal prescribed fire was common. The Douglas fir and other conifers have re-established themselves in the absence of fire.

This logging project and the draft Habitat Management Plan (HMP) have not been properly vetted by the public, the owners of this park. Hiking and horseback riding are the most common forms of recreation in the park. Oak savanna, meadow and mixed conifer forests provide a variety of experiences and desirable shade for hikers and riders. FBP is actively managing your park using herbicides including 2,4-D on 37 acres in the South Meadow last fall.

Before any vegetation management project is implemented under this proposed HMP, the plan should be publicly vetted and accepted. No project should be implemented unless LCP has adequate oversight to protect the public's interests.

If you have an opinion about the direction of park management, please call Mike Russell at 682-2000 or email Mike. Russell@co.lane.or.us and share your thoughts.

*Jim Nelson
Eugene*

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