

To whom would Templeton assign responsibility in this case?

Jerry Ritter
Springfield

REACTION WAS FINE

In response to Stephina Brewer's July 9 letter, "Flaunting Chief Wahoo": Do you think your reaction was out of line? That is all that matters. If "enough" others share a perception, does that make it true? What are numbers, anyway? We gave them their meaning, and I give them the meaning of meaningless.

Worry not about anything of the past. The past is dead. Your reaction was perfectly fine. None of us are ever "right," and more importantly, we are never "wrong."

Patrick Burian
Eugene

ACT OF KINDNESS

No one likes to be stuck with needles, so the three of us in the laboratory waiting room, expectantly waiting our turn to have our blood drawn, expressed sympathy when we heard the child crying from the back room. But you, kind lady with the beautiful, well-groomed dog sitting in your lap, took it one step further. When the mother came out carrying one of her two boys, him still shedding tears, you approached them with further words of comfort and sympathy, offering the boys pieces of bubble gum you had in your purse and even expressing to the young boy how your dog thought that the boy was so courageous. It was heartwarming to witness your act of loving kindness, a simple act that makes our world a better place.

Stephen White
Luminescence
Eugene

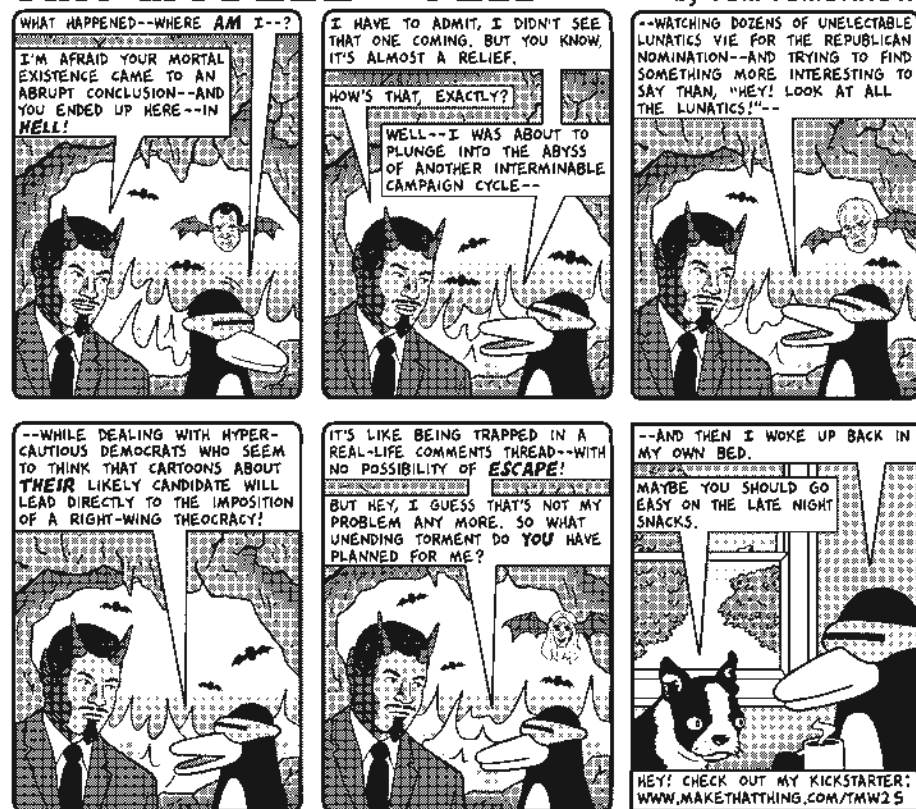
RACIST DELUSIONS

On June 18, our local NAACP held a vigil in Kesey Square in solidarity with the victims of the South Carolina church shooting. Various members of our community spoke in solidarity against racism. But American racism is not limited so narrowly and extends directly to the violence we commit and support abroad.

When Ajamu Baraka spoke at the Eugene Human Rights Commission's 2011 Human Rights Day Celebration, he

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



emphasized, "Our framework must be international, and we must understand the connection between the local and the global." Today, he connects the police brutality and systemic racial discrimination of Ethiopian Jews in Israel to the ongoing struggle against racism in America.

After returning from a Palestine/Israel African Heritage delegation, he wondered "how anyone with a modicum of humanity and any sense of morality could reconcile living in that environment from the spoils of Palestinian dispossession and degradation and how any nation could support the Israeli political project." He described it as "the most obscene capitulation to injustice on the part of the international community since 1945."

Black organizers representing Ferguson, including Black Lives Matter, joined the Dream Defenders for another trip there. "The goals were primarily to allow for the group members to experience and see firsthand the occupation, ethnic cleansing and brutality Israel has levied against Palestinians," wrote Ahmad Abuznaid, co-organizer of the delegation. "We thought the connections between the African-American leadership of the movement

in the U.S. and those on the ground in Palestine needed to be reestablished and fortified."

Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors said, "This is an apartheid state. We can't deny that, and if we do deny it, we are a part of the Zionist violence."

Hopefully our local leaders will begin to understand the intersectionality of oppression and establish activist solidarity to help end racist delusions of supremacy and entitlement wherever and however they are expressed and promoted in our community.

Mariah Leung, co-director,
Al-Nakba Awareness Project
Eugene

BERNIE'S LITMUS TEST

Campaign contribution totals are in for the most recent quarter. I have seen headlines which proclaim the leading recipient of dollars to be the leading candidate. There is no analysis of from whom the money is coming or the average size of contribution. In horse-race coverage of the presidential campaign, the lead is attributed merely to total dollars gained.

The best way to destroy this system of news coverage and influence of big money is to give an individual contribution, volunteer for and eventually vote for Bernie Sanders for president. Bernie's contributions average \$40 and do not come from corporations. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have contributed to Bernie Sanders' campaign.

We all want a constitutional amendment which would enshrine government's ability to regulate the influence of big money in politics. We want a future Supreme Court to overturn the 2010 *Citizens United* ruling (which allowed unlimited contributions to PACs, which are supposedly not officially connected with campaigns but do in fact work in concert with campaigns). Bernie Sanders has said his litmus test for Supreme Court appointments is the need to overturn *Citizens United*.

In the meantime, before we can meet these goals, the best thing to do to stop the influence of big money is support Bernie Sanders. Imagine if the highest office in the country were won through a popular campaign supported only by citizens, not corporations? It would be a great victory for democracy.

Stephen Amy
Eugene

SIX MILLION DEATHS

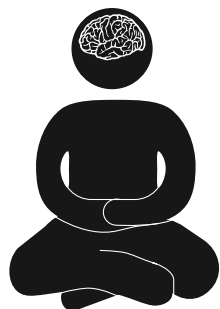
Adel Gresham [Letters, 7/9, "Expand Vaccination"] makes a good point about vaccines needing to reach all to be effective. Thank goodness that Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance was funded to reach another 300 million children in the next few years. We must make sure America honors its pledge to Gavi.

Also, forthcoming legislation in Congress will consider passing into law reforms to USAID, the office that provides developmental assistance. These researched changes will make USAID more efficient and transparent, and they include a report to Congress that will explain the impact of the money invested. They will also focus on ending preventable deaths of children, which is currently around six million each year.

Taking a few minutes to make a call or send an email to our representatives asking them to support this legislation will make a difference in the lives of millions.

Willie Dickerson
Snohomish, Washington

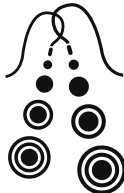
MEDITATION NEUROSCIENCE Research Study



Healthy adults with 2+ years of meditation experience are invited to participate. Pay is \$40 - \$160. Interested? Contact Lisa May at 541.357.9410 or lmay@uoregon.edu. Find out more at sanlab.uoregon.edu/meditationneuroscience.

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