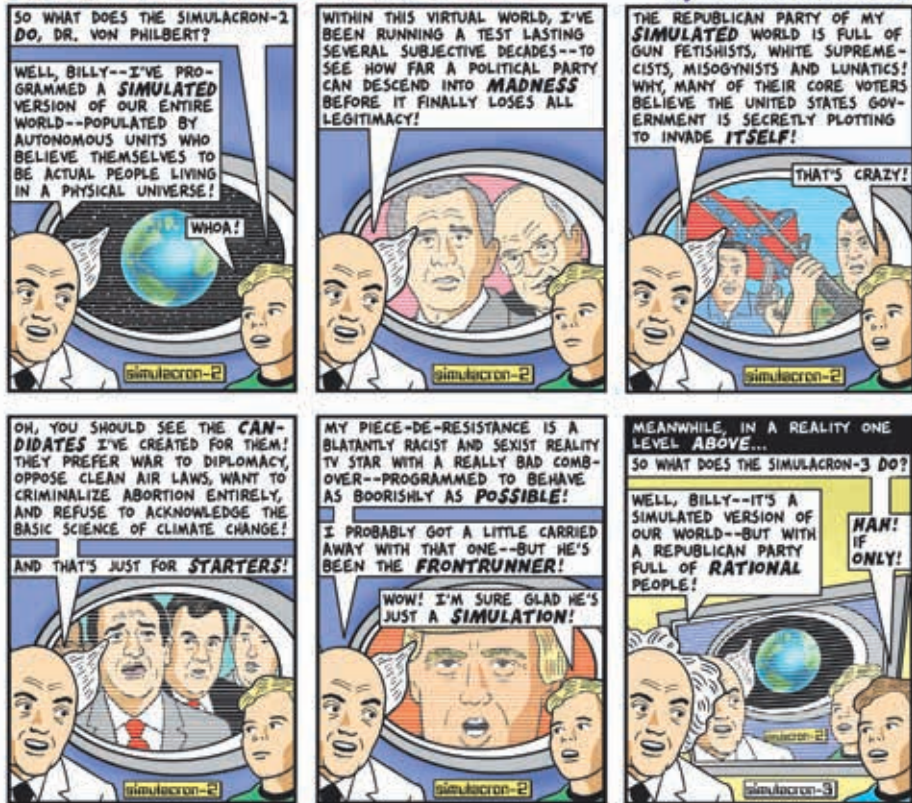


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Library at 100 W. 13th Ave., until recently home to Balzhiser & Hubbard Engineers, has been leased (with an option to buy) by the huge medical firm Kaiser Permanente. As the ground floor and basement are being revamped for its clinic (the second floor remains on short lease to other tenants), let us hope Kaiser maintains one of the few gems of Eugene classic-modernist architecture. Our aesthetic environment is, after all, a factor in our personal and social health.

The 1959 building combines elements of Frank Lloyd Wright in its warm colors and use of brick and wood, with the stark lines of the “international style” (Wright himself created the greatest such hybrid with the Kaufmann house “Fallingwater” in Pennsylvania). The lobby, stairwell, streamlined reception desk, lighting details and pillars of green metal in the main room (in debt to Wright’s “lotus pad” columns in the Johnson Wax complex in Racine, Wisconsin) deserve preservation. So do the cleaned-line, handsome facades facing 13th and Olive, without adding gaudy signage.

Let us encourage Kaiser and the city to safeguard this excellent thread in our urban fabric. After all, some things should be “permanente.” And the structure is even more appealing since a massively dull pile, basically a storage stack for student housing, was built across the street.

D.C. Elliott
Eugene

ADDRESS CAPITALISM

It has been interesting to follow the plurality of perspectives in response to the July 16 cover story, “Radical Predictions.” However, these responses lack a cogent social analysis and, thus, fail to provide a tenable way forward.

Population overshoot, industrialism, spiritual alienation, uncontrollable economic growth and a culture of domination are all secondary or tertiary problems. “Solutions” that address these problems — population control, attacks

on infrastructure, individual spiritual practices, living off the grid and wallowing in alienation — will never be effective on their own.

If we want to cut ecocide at the root, we must address capitalism. It is capitalism that is the dominant mode of production on the planet and the undeniable cause of ecological devastation.

The transformation of the natural world into commodities through the work of labor power is at the core of capitalism. Even those of us not directly involved in production are coerced to buy these commodities and sell our labor power just to survive.

It is only by ending this relationship between labor and capital that we will be able to end the abusive relationship between humans and nature. If you want to organize with this premise in mind, contact me at kelleyvincent@gmail.com.

Vincent Kelly
Eugene

RIVER IDEAS

Your Aug. 6 Slant asked for more ideas on how to help keep our riverbanks clean. Here is mine:

The city should allow people to camp on unused public land that is away from the river. There are plenty of parcels of unused city, county and state land (not to mention EWEB) that could provide people with spaces to camp without impinging on our river.

For a fraction of what it spends on driving out campers, cleaning up after them, modifying our parks to be inhospitable to homeless people, etc., the city could provide port-a-pots and Dumpsters for quite a few homeless camps.

My guess as to why this hasn’t already happened is that the city pays its lawyers to tell it not to allow camping for “liability reasons.”

Steven C. Hiatt
Eugene

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LET'S MISBEHAVE
SATURDAY, AUG 15 - 1:30 PM



POTATO HEAD BLUES
SATURDAY, AUG 15 - 8 PM