

SLEEP FOR SURVIVAL

Refusing to lift the camping ban is not only unconstitutional, but inhumane. Contrary to popular beliefs, unhoused does not mean unemployed. An unhoused citizen who works at night would not be eligible for rest at one of the “dusk to dawn” camps. Working the night shift is difficult as it is, but the increased struggle for obtaining sleep can actually cause safety issues in the workplace.

I have struggled with insomnia my whole life. My health is affected in many ways. With prolonged episodes, I have decreased alertness, blurry vision and dizziness. What if I didn't have a comfortable bed in a warm house? If I were homeless in Eugene, I would be assumed to be a drug addict, when what people would actually be seeing are the symptoms of sleep deprivation.

The survival instinct of every creature on Earth is to shelter itself from the elements. Oxygen, water, food, sleep and shelter are essential to all of us. The city of Eugene is denying vulnerable citizens at least two out of five of these survival needs.

The city of Eugene is setting itself up to lose money through lawsuits and paying the police overtime to provide social work services. Throughout history, change has occurred through righteous defiance. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, “One has not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.” I believe the natural next step should be disobedience.

Crystal Webb
Eugene

LOVE THE DIVERSITY

In the Renaissance and for the Romantics, imagination or images derive and speak to the heart. Broadway Plaza, better known as Kesey Square, is the cultural center of downtown Eugene and needs to be imagined from the heart as a place for the heart. Think of heart as a place of emotions, especially loving kindness, heart as longings, heart as the place of hidden truth, deepest soul and inner conscience, a place of courage and generosity. If we want to restore the heart of downtown Eugene it requires re-finding the heart in ourselves, our values and longings, and taking the city to heart so that what grows is rooted in the heart. We need to draw upon our greatest efforts of creative imagination.

THIS MODERN WORLD



Let's begin by respecting our potential for creating something beautiful in the heart of our beloved city. Put aside the two existing proposals. We don't need another apartment building or another outdoor restaurant and brewery. Let the storyteller Ken Kesey be our spirit guide and allow what is already there to spontaneously develop qualitatively toward more definition.

First, love the diversity. Imagine and value the variety of people, including the hobos and street people, the theater and restaurant patrons, the jazz and rock clubbers, the tourists from the suburbs and the LGBTQ come-out-of-the closet and be proud folk. Love the different fashions, enjoy the manners, styles in speech, different rhythms; respect the heart of the city's charm and grace.

Kesey Square offers us the potential for creating something beautiful, something with soul, an intimacy, personal relations, a knowing each other. When we abnegate the task of imagining, we lose heart and lose our connection with one another. We get the bland uniformity of the suburbs. Let us take heart: The creative challenge we face will intensify the feeling, thinking, imagining that encourages us to become good citizens more conscious

of the invisible spirit guiding us to that heart where the future of our weird and wonderful city resides.

The Rev. Gary James (retired)
Unitarian Universalist Church
Eugene

THE NEED TO LISTEN

Eugene had the good fortune to have professor James Braxton Peterson talk recently on the topic of race at the UO. There are two things that I have taken away from his talk. As white people, we need to listen deeply, not defensively. Second, if we are unable to do this, then read. Towards this end, I recommend *On the Run* by Alice Goffman, a white sociologist who lived among a group of young black men in a neighborhood in inner city Philadelphia. She documents their daily, degrading interactions with police and the criminal justice system. In addition, she unravels the profound impact systemic racism has on the institutions of community — family, friendship and work. It is a reality that I have had the privilege of blocking out of my consciousness.

Not everyone has this choice.

Barbara Sklar
Eugene

MERKLEY'S INCONSISTENCY

How many of our policymakers feel the urgency to really change course for a healthier and more just world? Forum discussions from the Center on Global Energy Policy present a bizarre other-world where some of the brightest and most educated and privileged people on the planet do not present the same concern about global warming that we do here in our communities.

How can high-level discussions about energy policy in the 21st century and beyond not include *all* costs from the effects of climate change?

As part of the movement committed to a healthy planet for future generations, I was happy to learn about the Keep It In the Ground Act, co-sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley. What confused me were his recent comments (on Jefferson Public Radio) about the Pacific Pipeline and Jordan Cove LNG export terminal. He suggested that a Pacific Coast LNG export terminal is inevitable so why stand in opposition?

But this reasoning is inconsistent with the “urgency to act” publicly declared by the senator. Any support for new and exorbitant fossil-fuel infrastructure in Oregon — and the U.S. will likely neutralize this boldly introduced climate legislation and threaten to turn it into political theater.

So a message to Merkley: I enthusiastically support your efforts to prohibit all new fossil fuel drilling on our public lands, in the Arctic and along our U.S. coastlines. And when our statewide climate groups rally this November and December for Global Climate Solutions, we will be marching to prevent *all* new fossil-fuel infrastructure in Oregon. We hope you'll join us.

Delaney Pearson
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DRIVING SOCIAL CHANGE

At times it would seem that we are a species bent on our own destruction. The science of climate change unequivocally indicates that if we do not stop using fossil fuels soon, we will leave our grandchildren a planet far different from the one the human species has flourished on.

Without decisive action, which needs to be taken soon, we will leave future generations a planet battered by weather extremes, rising sea levels, oceans that

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