

As a current student at the UO, I am quite concerned about what the future looks like in light of climate change and our collective lack of action to reduce our emissions — specifically, that my university refuses to divest its alleged \$4 million that is currently invested in these fossil fuel companies. The UO Foundation, which controls our financial portfolio, has been quoted saying it “considers climate change to be one of the most important issues of our time” and “invest[s] accordingly.” I do not believe that the UO should be investing in the very companies that are contributing the most to climate change and destroying the futures of the students the university seeks to prepare for the future.

Maddie Cheek
Co-director, Climate Justice League,
UO
Eugene

A GAP REMAINS

While *Reveal* on KLCC is an interesting and entertaining radio program, it doesn’t provide the hard-hitting, educational value of the internationally syndicated *Alternative Radio*. With presentations from the globe’s foremost progressive minds, *AR* satisfies a crucial need of KLCC listeners. Management’s decision to ax *Alternative Radio* is short-sighted and defiant in the face of public outcry. It’s not too late, KLCC. Give us back our *Alternative Radio*.

Michelle Holman
Deadwood

HILLARY’S BLUNDER

Irene Henjum’s letter in the March 3 *EW* was mind-boggling. Just like Sally Sheklow’s column in the April 30, 2015 issue, we are urged by the writer to support Hillary Clinton because — she has a vagina!

Sheklow, in her elation over Clinton’s announcement of her candidacy, did mention “our reasonable objections to her stance on climate, fracking, GMOs, Wall Street, foreign policy and real stuff like that” (my emphasis), but spent most of her column fretting about the “sexist stereotypes, misogynist claptrap and general nonsense” to which Clinton would be subjected during her campaign. And Henjum, downplaying the most critical Senate vote in 50 years, states that Bernie Sanders, being from Vermont, had the *luxury* (!) of being able to vote against the Iraq invasion, whereas Clinton, representing New York, “had no choice under the circumstances” but to support the Iraq War.

War is war and this particular war — the unnecessary, unwarranted attack on a sovereign nation that had not attacked us — has cost us thousands of American lives, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives, and has helped bring about all of the other instability in that region, not to mention the \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion (and counting) that has been wasted.

It is obvious that having a female president would be “historically important,” but so would having a president who would take back our economy from the oligarchy, raise the real wages of the

working classes, promote truly universal education and health care and (hopefully) not lead us into foreign-policy blunders.

Steven F. Salman
Springfield

OUR SOCIALIST ROOTS

Those on the right say they want to take America back to the constitutional founding of our nation and denigrate the concept of socialism.

The fundamental purpose and guiding principle for the creation of our government is written in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

“We the people,” “common defense” and “general welfare” are all tenets of socialism in which people unite to share a common goal of tranquility and justice.

Bernie Sanders is the only presidential candidate who truly understands this guiding principle.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

PROGRESSIVE MANTLE

I am consistently struck by how incoherent Hillary Clinton supporters are in advocating her candidacy. According to Irene Henjum’s letter March 3, Hillary had to vote to invade Iraq because New York City had been attacked by — um, other Muslims, mostly Saudis, who had no connection whatsoever to Iraq? Allegedly, she had a duty to her constituents to buy into the cynically, and transparently, fraudulent case for war laid out by George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. Clinton must have known she was participating in a war crime, but was too scrupulous a believer in representative democracy to vote her conscience.

The idea that we shouldn’t let the little matter of criminal complicity in over a million casualties, \$2 trillion wasted and the ongoing devastation of Iraq stand in the way of our first female president is equal parts infuriating and absurd. Worse, Henjum and others cloak this utter perversion of both morality and sense under the mantle of “progressive.”

Should our system continue, the election of women to the presidency is a certainty. By contrast, what’s always perilously unlikely — given the entrenched corporate, financial and military interests that dominate both major parties — is electing anyone ethical and sane to the office.

Timothy Shaw
Eugene

THE EMPIRE PARTY

The sanguine support for Hillary Clinton by knee-jerk Democrats and their inability to meaningfully distinguish her from Sanders is deeply troubling. Clinton’s warmongering toward Syria and

support of Obama’s continuing neoliberal imperialism in Libya and Ukraine, proxy wars upon Syria and Yemen, and *Godfather* selections of drone assassination victims violating U.S. and international law, are deeply troubling.

Mainstream Democrats and Republicans are simply two branches of the American Empire Party, with domestic policy differences ranging between conventional and antediluvian that fail to challenge our economic colonialism inflicted when necessary by naked state terrorism.

By far the more rational, consistently ethical and visibly honest candidate, Bernie Sanders proposes a sensible remake of Holy Capitalism, our unchecked growth-obsessed system with ever-increasing vertical condensation of wealth. Instead, he proposes a steady-state economy facilitating horizontal distribution of benefits, the only model capable of survival in the real world of exhaustible resources. I can only hope that he would extend his respectful egalitarian worldview to our relationships with the rest of humankind.

Sanders is much more likely to prevail in the national election. Clinton’s record is extremely vulnerable. Among other things, the Clintons’ duplicitous courtship of black voters will backfire when the opposition revisits Bill’s disastrous records of prison expansion and the three-strikes law, welfare “reform” including “workfare” eliminating AFDC, NAFTA that accelerated loss of inner city manufacturing employment, and trade sanction threats against Nelson Mandela to block generic HIV/AIDS drugs for sub-Saharan Africa to protect Big Pharma profits, costing uncounted thousands of African lives. Hillary compounded her support for Bill’s policies with ugly, racist statements. Once exposed and reexamined, these should cost her the black vote, especially when compared with Sanders’ principled civil rights activism.

Jack Dresser, Ph.D., co-director
Al-Nakba Awareness Project
Springfield

SPRINGFIELD TRASHED

Since we’re neighbors, can’t we be friends? It was disappointing to see Springfield trashed in “All Quiet on the Eastern Front” March 10; however, after years of put-downs and biased reporting by local area papers, I shouldn’t have been at all surprised.

For example, ever noticed how local stories about crime are always more pronounced if the crime takes place in Springfield rather than Eugene? People, while Eugene may tout itself as being open-minded and unbiased, when it comes to sharing that my family lives in Springfield I must say I’ve experienced quite the opposite. Ouch.

Maybe we Springfield residents should make our displeasure at stereotyping known by boycotting Eugene businesses; my guess is, Eugene’s shops and restaurants would mightily miss the dollars we spend over there. Oh, and we all know Eugene doesn’t have any strip clubs — only Springfield does. Ditto for homelessness.

While in Springfield, the writer could have enjoyed a delicious BBQ sandwich

and microbrew at Hop Valley or a nice Mexican meal and margarita at Memo’s. He could’ve checked out Plank Town Brewing Company. Or he could’ve taken a pleasant stroll with friends through the Washburne Historic District.

There are also good shows at Wildish Theater that might have been mentioned, and if he’d shown up earlier, he could’ve gone antiquing or enjoyed an art exhibit at Springfield Museum. While on the subject of Springfield — for lovers of the outdoors, come spring and summer we have fine parks, trails and waterways for fishing or boating; in July, Island Park is always jammed for its excellent fireworks display and live music.

But I guess your writer didn’t want to talk about any of that — always easier to take pot-shots.

EW’s mission statement says “we advocate aggressively for social justice.” Really? Judging by this story it seems you advocate for put-downs and stereotypes. In the end, though, I guess I’m glad you ran that childish and distasteful piece — a good chance to express my thoughts and maybe, just maybe, help people take off their blinders.

Cynthia Orlando
Springfield

EDITOR’S NOTE: A half-page story on *MEDGE* at the Wildish was in the same issue.

ALIENATED READERS

What was the point of such a mean-spirited attack on downtown Springfield? It’s so painfully obvious that the editors tasked reporter Ben Ricker to find the darker side of nightlife in Springfield, rather than to report on the bright, vibrant and energetic downtown that Springfield has become.

This sad piece of writing and illustration has insulted the residents, business owners, employees, community leaders, artists, musicians and those of us who have been involved in the revitalization of downtown for the past six years. It’s too bad Ricker or any of your other staff, for that matter, missed another fun, busy and eventful evening full of people downtown enjoying the monthly Art Walk, the Marketplace at Sprout!, the art galleries, the Wildish Theater, the restaurants and businesses that were open late. Why not report on that?

As a business owner on Main Street, I was asked if I wanted to advertise in an upcoming section in your paper the day before the article ran. I was considering it, until I saw the article. Several other downtown businesses and organizations who have advertised with the *Weekly* will most likely no longer be your customers. I just don’t understand what *EW* was hoping to accomplish; did you not realize how much of your readership you have alienated?

Karen Hageman
Springfield

UNCOUTH CARTOON

Ben Ricker’s Springfield cartoon March 10 was unfair and uncouth. Don’t believe everything you read in *EW*!

Erik & Ann Muller
Eugene