

your family, pay some bills. Then you'll have an appreciation for the American way, where you get what you earn, and life isn't handed to you.

I'm sure in this liberal town, I'll be labeled as a racist, a hater, bigot, etc., simply because I believe you should work for what you have. But it's the American way.

*James Hadd
Eugene*

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

To James Hadd: I thought it was hilarious that you called me a "delusional" liberal, while you're the one with some outrageous ideas. For one, you expressed the idea of preventing people who can die for their country from voting. Without looking it up, I know that the 26th Amendment removes that flaw.

Thanks in a large part to the deterioration of socialist policies such as national education and social security (because Republicans have tried to privatize the two and raise the retirement age), the minimum wage is often not a stepping stone. I can credit a 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics survey that says over half of the minimum wage workforce is over 25 years old.

This happens because the conservative ideas of small economic government (*laissez-faire* and trickle-down economics) are not helping the middle class move up. The conservative ideology was adapted to the common man by dangling the carrot in front of the pigs' nose, if you will, that if

you're rich — excuse me, when you're rich (so conservatives promise) — you won't want to pay higher taxes.

Conservatives hide the flaw in their plan, that the flat tax they worship crushes any hope the common man has of becoming wealthy. Moving on, "getting everything for free" is a huge overstatement. Student debt and college tuition are huge problems, and I know that in a few years I'll be working my hardest to get a scholarship so my parents (two able, working-class parents) can afford to retire at a reasonable age.

You chastise liberal policies that give the poor "too much money" while your party takes billions if not trillions to fund our already massive military. Not to mention aggression towards the Middle East only makes the problem worse. You think they hate us now? They'll hate us even more after we carpet bomb yet another of their towns, already plagued with disease, dehydration and hunger.

Why you spent some of your time trying to attack an optimistic teenager, I'll never know, but what I do know is that I'm glad that I'm on the right side of the political fence.

*Ian Curtis
South Eugene High School freshman
Eugene*

GOOD TRAIN SOUNDS

There remains discussion about limiting train whistle noise to certain



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