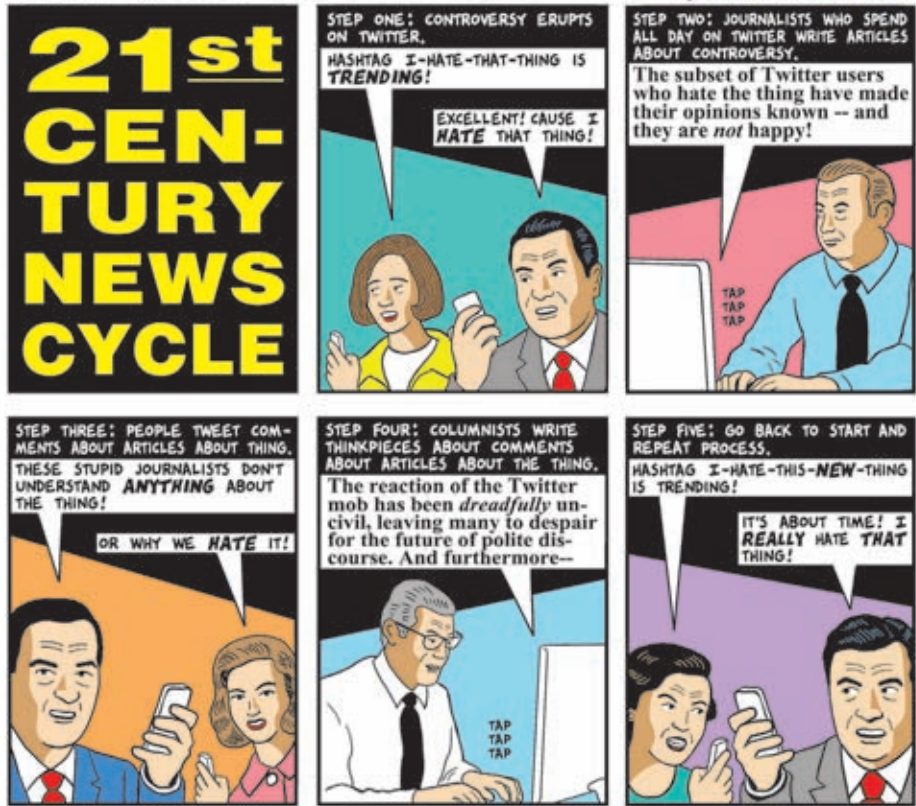


# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



your grandchildren. Arrive between 8 and 9 am. The hearing will be at the Federal Court Building, 405 E. 8th Ave., and plan to arrive in plenty of time to cheer the youth and their attorneys as they enter the building.

It is also important for District Judge Ann Aiken to witness our tremendous public support for the plaintiffs and for this to be reported by local and national media. A good turnout is really important.

Another opportunity to support these courageous youth will happen on the eve of the hearing by attending a blessing vigil. The event will take place at the Federal Court Building 6 pm Monday, Sept. 12.

“Granny” Laurie Granger  
Raging Grannies Eugene

## PETITION DISCOURSE

As an individual collecting signatures for two initiatives now in circulation, I don’t understand some residents’ urgency to spare me the time, energy and resources I put into signature gathering for fear these initiatives could get thrown out by a court after they pass.

Your concerns are misplaced.

I circulate petitions because I believe these initiatives should be law in Lane County, but just as importantly, I circulate them because doing so is democracy in action.

With a petition in my hand, I get to talk to fellow voters concerning issues about which many of us care or should care. I get to inform folks about our right as voters to write and pass laws that our government won’t pass for us. I get to share my own perspective and hear others about important issues in my community.

I am fully prepared for the reality that these initiatives may not qualify for the ballot or that they will be thrown out. That, too, is how democracy works.

The political discourse is what makes democratic ideals flourish. This is how We the People learn to communicate

about hard issues, to listen to each other’s ideas, to think for ourselves and teach our children about what democracy looks like — all of which is the very purpose of the initiative and referendum powers protected by the Oregon Constitution.

What we all should be concerned about is losing our rights of direct democracy at the hands of our government.

Let the initiatives be circulated.

Justin Workman  
Blachly

## THE PEOPLE’S BUSINESS

A recent threat to sue Lane County — advanced by William Gray of Harrang Long Gary Rudnick on behalf of Stan Long — is a blatant effort to weaken the people’s initiative power and to strengthen the role of government in overseeing our local democracy.

While refrains calling for the county to “follow the law” are valid, the truth is that a narrow look at “the law” is not always the best way uphold community values, truth or justice.

Rather, we must hold fast to bedrock principles that have been codified in our Oregon and U.S. Constitution protecting our rights to free speech, free association and to circulate petitions to advance public discourse and government reform.

The initiative and referendum powers have their roots in the Populist Movement of the latee eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when a mistrust of government ran high, not unlike today. Why then would we stand by, let alone endorse, former government attorneys and government officials deciding for us what the people’s law-making powers look like.

The people’s interests and rights are best served by honoring the protected values of the initiative and referendum powers — direct democracy, circulation of petitions, public discussions and voting.

Let’s not let our government decide for us what we can think, endorse, oppose,

The Shedd Institute  
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The Eye Center  
John H. Haines, MD  
Kent A. Karren, MD

Coming up at The Shedd this Fall and beyond...

10.9 Guy Mendilow Ensemble	11.5 Ehud Asherie
10.11 JLCO/Wynton Marsalis (Hult)	11.10 Michael Feinstein
10.13 Jazz Kings: Mood Indigo	11.11 Riley Ehteridge Jr.
10.21 Moombah: Doctor, Doctor!	12.2-18 Annie Get Your Gun
10.23 Tracy Bonham	12.8 Jazz Kings: Happy Holiday
10.25 Michael McDonald	1.11 Karla Bonoff
10.27 Dave Douglas meets The Westerlies w/Anwar Marshall	1.12 Tierney Sutton
11.3 Bill Frisell: When You Wish...	1.21 Moombah: Asunder Down Under!
11.4 Hapa	1.25 Mark Humme's Blues Harp