

IMPROVE RESILIENCE

As a permaculture designer, I read the article “Second Source” with interest [“Water for Life,” 11/23]. My work centers around creating resilient food and water systems by preparing for disasters both acute (like earthquakes) and chronic (like climate change). While it’s important that EWEB improves the resilience of municipal water supplies, there are less centralized methods of obtaining water that we should also prioritize.

These include greywater recycling systems — now permitted in Oregon — which allow “waste” water from sinks, bathtubs and washing machines to irrigate home landscaping. Tanks, ponds and other earthworks can store seasonally abundant rainwater for use in the dry season. Installing these systems on every house and apartment complex would dramatically reduce demand on municipal water supplies.

Local land managers can also modify their practices to improve water quality and quantity by implementing low and no-till organic farming techniques and manag-

ing forests by selectively thinning to maintain continuous canopy cover.

In the words of the late permaculture designer Bill Mollison, “The greatest change we need to make is from consumption to production.” We need to see ourselves, our homes and our neighborhoods as the “second source” for water, food and other needs, and decrease our reliance on increasingly strained centralized resource distribution systems.

Tao Orion

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DEHUMANIZING ARTICLE

Opening the “Holiday Happenings” section of the *Weekly* at random, my eyes lit on the “12 Days of Eug-mas,” Number 6. I could not believe it.

Still depressed about the state of our country and the world, here it is, in my hometown newspaper. Women are “titties” and men are men. On stage or off.

This is called objectification. It is dehumanizing, which makes it easier to justify

abuse, such as grabbing a woman’s pussy or raping an ex-wife. Six-inch heels are crippling and make women and girls powerless.

Feminism has become a dirty word and sexism is hip — something to joke about. Articles like this help make it part of mainstream society — making it “normal” and available for us all to be affected and infected by this way of thinking.

How about giving words and their true meaning more thought before you put them on public display? It might just make our world a better place.

Jean Denis

Eugene

MESSAGE OF INDIFFERENCE

The day before Thanksgiving and a mere week before paychecks would be disbursed, the University of Oregon decided to break its promise to its employees that it would cooperate with the Fair Labor and Standards Act regulations. Some employees for months now have been counting on a fair and reasonable increase to their salary to reflect new standards and fair wages.

Due to an injunction in Texas, the new regulations are on hold based on the expectation that they will disappear once Trump takes office. Some institutions have made the moral decision to follow through with them anyway, or instituted the regulations early and decided not to renege.

However, the UO is among the many that have decided they care more about money than their employees, and sent some workers, including my husband, home to grieve with their families at Thanksgiving over not only the significant impact to their livelihood, but the clear message of indifference their employer has toward them.

Please help us show the UO the mistake they have made by calling the office of President Michael Schill directly and asking why they would make such a heartless decision.

Sydney Georgieff

Eugene

NO BAD INTENT

I am an alumni of the law school and acquainted with Professor Shurtz. I never took a class from her and was not at the

DESIGN MATTERS BY JERRY DIETHELM

You Have to Serve Somebody

RENAME KESEY SQUARE

You have to ask yourself: Why such extreme prudence by our Eugene City Council when it comes to the official renaming of what everyone now calls Kesey Square?

And what was it that occasioned the flurry of letters to the City Council from the business community urging delay?

Was there something incipiently territorial perceived in that renaming, some slippery slope toward the official acceptance of public ownership, a perceived barrier to those still hoping to build over the square? Would the mere act of changing the name from Broadway Plaza to Kesey Square actually have such power? Some must have thought so.

They say naming is like a handle on a pan. In the old West, the saying went: “What’s your handle, partner?” In other words, what grabs that pan full of you and pulls it into mind?

Such naming turns out to be a natural part of thinking and shows up everywhere.

I remember my ninth-grade Spanish teacher asking me, “*Como se llama usted, Geronimo?*” What do you call yourself, Jerry? And I would answer dutifully, “*Me llamo Geronimo, señora.*” I call myself Jerry.

It was the same in French: “*Je m’appelle?*” And the good student would respond: I call myself, Jerome.

And so it became clear that a name was an appellation, meaning that something was being “called,” and that the act was a profound process of bringing that thing into presence and into mind.

A good test for the authenticity of that calling is when a name sticks, like Pig Pen in *Peanuts* or Kesey Square. George Bush, with no doubt special insight, called Karl Rove “Turd Blossom.” Let’s just take his word for it.



KEN KESEY STATUE IN KESEY SQUARE

Bob Dylan won’t be going to Sweden this year, but if he stopped by Kesey Square, this is what he might sing: “*You can call me Wheezy, you can call me Deezy and you can call me Freezy,*

If you want to make it easy, you can call me Kesey. But, o’naza, don’t call me Broadway Plaza, My name is Kesey Square.”

And then his chorus [where he takes it from the bridge]:

“But no matter what you say, You’re gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed, You’re gonna have to serve somebody Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord But you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”

The large roomful of people that attended the city’s public forum on downtown open spaces this past Dec. 2, now almost a year ago, made it very clear that they wanted to keep and improve Kesey. They wanted to see it activated, not sold. They wanted to see investment in our downtown commons, not their closing.

They didn’t want to trade off one space for some improvements to another. Obviously, there’s still some foot-dragging going on here. But as Dylan says, “You’re going to have to serve somebody,”

City Council: You’re going to have to serve somebody.

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