

Idaho require large protective buffers because their laws are based on science. Each state recognizes pesticide drift as inevitable.

What's more, she slammed Mountain Rose Herbs, a local company that provides jobs for 200 people, for following reputable business practices — destroying plants they found were contaminated with the timber herbicide, atrazine and taking the economic hit.

State regulators have rarely sanctioned these pesticide trespass violations. Complaints about ill health and ruined property are not well accounted for by state agencies — take the 2013 Gold Beach case where over 35 people reported being poisoned. That egregious case was counted as a single complaint!

Despite our state's problems with proper reporting, pesticide testing and public accountability, the herbal company alerted the public because as owner Shawn Donnille said, "people and organic crops should have a basic right to avoid being sprayed by dangerous chemicals."

Beyond Toxics introduced 2015 legislation to require hefty buffers and advanced notification of aerial herbicide sprays. Timber lobbyists did everything to block our science-based recommended changes to timber law. With no other protective options, Oregon must ban aerial spray.

I would be pleased to welcome Morrison to a public debate on the Oregon's forest practices act, and its failure to protect people, communities, drinking water and fish habitat. We could also discuss the impact of clearcut logging on climate and carbon. Real facts required. Let's not

let the timber industry hide the truth in the guise of another misleading opinion piece.

Lisa Arkin, *Beyond Toxics*
Eugene

STINGY UO

The president of the UO makes \$660,000 a year, along with car allowance (another \$15,000 a year), cell phone allowance, paid health care, deferred compensation and lives for free at the president's house. Yet I'm not complaining about the president's salary and perks. I'm complaining about the UO's new policy to charge student food workers for their meals, an additional expense that used to be free.

Charging student food workers who make \$9.75 an hour is so cheap and stingy it makes me cringe.

The reasons given for doing this are that the free meal money comes out of student housing fees and it's not fair to burden all the students with paying for free meals for a few. Then why take money out of housing when there are all these juicy salaries and perks sucking up the UO budget? If a few well-paid coaches, professors or administrators were to donate just their car or phone allowance, which for what they're making is more a symbol of their status than actually needed, it would surely pay for all student food worker shift meals until the end of time.

The UO will say salaries and perks are contract issues that can't be changed, and we have to attract the best. I've heard that sorry excuse for over-paying management forever. It's a good old boys network that keeps the money flowing to the top. That's

what's not fair about charging student food workers for their shift meals.

Sue Mandeville
Springfield

NOT VALID

The Nov. 23 *Eugene Weekly* contained a "teach-in" announcement.

For the first session, I attended the men's "safe space." This was safe only if one accepts the social justice narrative. For pointing out cases where this narrative is at odds with reality, I was labeled a racist and was told to silence myself. Three times, I had to say, "Do not put words in my mouth."

For example, isn't it ironic how the "progressive stack" finds female-tenured professors to be more oppressed than homeless white men?

For the second workshop, I was the only person attending. So I conversed with the leader. In response to things she asserted, I replied with how belief in the SJ [social justice] narrative is causing injustice. She could have ended the conversation but chose to continue. She then informed me that my words were aggressive. Is disagreeing with her narrative in calm and measured tones really violence?

If SJ warriors continue political correctness without fixing their rhetoric, Republicans in 2018 could achieve veto-proof majorities in both House and Senate. I fear this. SJWs need to test (and defend) their narrative in open debate. Labeling and silencing are not valid arguments.

Joe Tyndall
Eugene

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Environmental problems, social missteps and economic stability are symptoms, not the cause, of the hot air we choke on.

For months the presidential campaign has engulfed our lives as we anxiously awaited the next outrageous comment or unfounded rumor.

We laughed. We cried. It was captivating. Ratings went through the roof for this ultimate reality show. Certain episodes were provocative, others sad or hilarious. Everybody watched. No one demanded substance.

As candidates refused to share "secrets" or accept responsibility for past incidents, voters were kept in the dark about any actual leadership strategy they would follow. Substance was overlooked as we focused on perceived personality. Split down the middle our nation became a land of them and us.

The election is over. What comes next? Just more hot air unless we accept responsibility. A successful democracy involves more than basking in months of rhetoric followed by a few minutes casting a ballot.

Democracy works when citizens participate. Casting your vote was a good start, but don't just sit there waiting for the premier of the next season of reality shows. Make a difference now. Turn the heat up on hot air by taking an active role in the life of our community.

Michael DeLuise
Eugene



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