

EPD CREATES TAXI STAGING AREAS DOWNTOWN

- Resolution for 2017: Slant will not be **“fair and balanced,”** whatever Fox News means by that.

- EW’s **“Give Guide”** issue was especially popular this holiday season. Before the end of 2016, we want to add a few worthy nonprofits that were left out and would welcome your gifts. Tim Boyden’s Out on a Limb gallery at Broadway and Pearl is one of only three long-time galleries left downtown. He’s celebrating five years of showing work by fine local artists, along with his own creations. We have also gotten messages advocating for Oregon’s Network for Reproductive Options; Eugene PeaceWorks and its new radio station, KEPW; Eugene Civic Alliance’s work on its new sports facility for kids; and LandWatch Lane County’s work to preserve farm and forestlands. Our takeaway? Lane County has a plethora of amazing nonprofits, and we should all support their good work!

- Resolution for 2017: Slants will be **short.**

- Who’s in charge at the University of Oregon, please? The case of law Prof. Nancy Shurtz and her **Black Man in a White Coat** costume at a Halloween party in her home, a costume for which she has publicly apologized, is likely headed for the courts. The UO hired a Portland law firm to investigate. Why didn’t the school’s Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity investigate? The law school, headed by a dean who is stepping down in 2017, fell into what sounds like complete disarray over this issue. Aren’t the faculty lawyers and the UO’s student lawyers competent to fairly examine the question of a faculty member wearing such an insensitive costume and its ramifications? Finally, the UO released the report of the Portland lawyers to the public, although the UO is prohibited by law from disclosing personnel matters, in what Prof. Shurtz calls “a supremely public retaliation against me.” Of course, she has hired a lawyer.

- Resolution for 2017: Slant will not be **preachy.**

- Good news from **The Washington Post** newsroom, writes Ken Doctor on *Politico*: In 2017, *WaPo* will be adding about 60 jobs, many in investigative reporting. Doctor says the paper has been profitable in 2016 — also good news at a time when solid journalism is sorely needed. We’re counting on Editor Marty Baron, most famous from his *Boston Globe* days, to cover the Trump administration like the *Post* did Watergate.

- Resolution for 2017: Slant will watch **local and state governments** while acknowledging their new importance in America.

- Happy New Year! **We are so very done with 2016.** From David Bowie to Prince to George Michael to Carrie Fisher, WTF? But celebrities aside, let’s also note that in 2016 tigers were declared extinct in Cambodia, the Irrawaddy river dolphin became functionally extinct in Laos and according to Portland writer John Platt’s “Extinction Countdown” for *Scientific American*, 740 newly recognized bird species were added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species and 13 of them were already extinct.

- Resolution for 2017: Slant will try not to be **depressing.**

When you stumble out of a downtown bar next weekend, you may stumble right into a waiting taxi.

Over the Dec. 16 weekend the Eugene Police Department began a program that sets up two taxi staging areas downtown in an attempt to cut down on drunk driving and increase public safety.

The taxis are available on Friday and Saturday nights at the corner of 8th and Olive and by the Eugene Public Library on 10th and Olive.

Eugene Police Sgt. Julie Smith says, “We’re hoping to reduce crime and assaults and impaired drivers and increase safety.”

Before the staging areas were established, “many people would stand in the street waiting for their taxis, which caused unsafe conditions for them and drivers,” Smith says.

EPD hopes the option of taxis will prevent drunk driving and the random fights that often happen when bar patrons hit the streets after last call, Smith says. “If people know they’re going to get a taxi in five minutes walking instead of waiting 45 minutes they’ll make better decisions, and it’s safer for ev-

eryone.”

Smith says the new taxi staging areas won’t require many additional police resources. “It’s what we’d be doing in our job anyway.”

The only resources needed are for putting the signs up for the taxi areas and taking them down. Smith says it will take “less than 10 minutes to do that.” She also says that security guards downtown would be directing bar patrons to the staging areas. “I think it will flow smoothly.”

The police will continue normal patrols, but inform downtown bar patrons of the taxi option, Smith says. The new taxi areas should help manage traffic and prevent accidents by keeping taxis clear of intersections, she says.

On its first weekend the staging areas were not used very much, says Kelly Putnam, public safety program manager with EPD. “I think it was the weather and the ice storm — there just wasn’t a lot of foot traffic downtown. The bars were like ghost towns from what I’m told, so this isn’t the best weekend to evaluate how it worked,” Putnam says. “New Year’s is going to give us a real indication of how it’s working.” ■



PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY WORK, 1896 STYLE

The following is from an article published in the Dec. 26, 1896, *Guard*, one of the forebearers of *The Register-Guard*. The title of the article is “Streets Numbered.”

“Another progressive step towards metropolitanism was completed by the public schoolchildren. Every street in the city has been numbered by them and the cost will not exceed \$1.50 [\$41.35 by today’s dollar] in money and the work was contributed.

A small army of active workers made this task practicable at a small cost.

Small boys searched every nook and

corner in the city for old cans and pieces of waste tin. These old tins were cut into strips of suitable size upon which to place street names and numbers. The strips were then painted over with white paint, and afterwards the names or numbers of the streets were painted on them in black letters.

The work is very neatly done, and would not have looked better had the city hired it done.

The work was all done by the schoolchildren under the direction of Superintendent Reid and his corps of teachers, and the only expense was for the

paint used, which did not exceed a cost of \$1.50.

The object of the schools in putting up street names and numbers was to facilitate the work of distributing the Christmas donations for the poor tomorrow.”

The image is from Dec. 23, 1896, mid-block looking north between 9th and 10th on Willamette. Notice Skinner’s Butte is treeless?

Heather Kliever is curator of education at the Lane County Historical Society.