

PEACE AND UNITY

Because I moved out of the Eugene area five years ago, I don't read the *Eugene Weekly* as much as I used to, but your recent cover "In Good Faith" caught my attention, and I was so grateful to have seen it and read it.

Kudos to the *Eugene Weekly* for this wonderful and insightful article on this interfaith group in Eugene. Since moving to Oregon in 2009, I too have suffered senseless discrimination apparently based on ethnicity and religion mostly directed at me by so-called "Christians." I am not a Christian basher; I have plenty of relatives and friends who are indeed true Christians in their attitudes and behaviors.

Here in Albany I've had my worst discrimination experiences. The Linn-Benton Housing Authority even put it in writing, calling me a "half-black Wiccan" when in fact I am a mixed race Unitarian Universalist.

They have told me they'd like me to move away, but I would never give these ignorant people the satisfaction. Incidentally, I have relatives who are different denominations of Christians, Jews and Muslims, and I respect them all for who they are regardless of their different faiths, which is no one's business but their own.

Thank you very much *Eugene Weekly* for giving voice to true believers unafraid to unite together in peace!

Diane Van Orden
Albany

KINDLY CORRECTION

Sat Nam! (Literally, "truth name" — a Sikh greeting): I'm honored to be on the front cover of last week's *Eugene Weekly* (April 27). I love the title "In Good Faith."

I'd like to make one correction/amplification. I titled my presentation "Singing the Praises" without knowing which of several shabads (Sikh psalms) I would present. That's not what the shabad is called. The 16th-century shabad credited to Guru Arjun Dev is "Taap Santaap Sagalay Ga-ay" in the original Gurmukhi (translation: the fiery pain is relieved.)

Siri Kirpal Kaur Khalsa
Eugene

CALLING FOR PEACE

Eugene's Interfaith Prayer Service International (IPSI) is a wonderful example of how people in our world can get along ("A Vision of Peace" by Corinne Boyer, *Eugene Weekly*, April 27). To further this example, we can each call for peace.

One way is to reach out to our elected representatives and ask them to fully fund our State Department. The current budget proposal calls for 31 percent cuts to this organization that carries America's message of hope, health and opportunity.

With its work partnering with other countries to extend education opportunities, diversify agriculture and battle disease, countries actually grow independent and, of course, friendly to the U.S. for our assistance. As desperation disappears, terrorists have trouble finding recruits and there is hope for the future.

Our calls, visits and letters to our representatives and senators, asking them to fund this work, will ensure it continues. Thus being active in our democracy is also the work of peace visionaries.

Willie Dickerson
Snohomish

GOOD TURTLES

Congratulations to *Eugene Weekly's* Anita Johnson and architect Otto Poticha's Turtle Award winners at last week's City Club annual event.

It was stated that their accomplishments have helped mold our community by fostering creative problem solving in Eugene's public affairs; stimulating constructive action; forging cooperative relationships; honoring diverse perspectives; sticking one's neck out for the good of the community; being under-appreciated by the public.

We are fortunate to have their continuing effort at every level of government.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

DRIPS

Interesting article on rainwater harvesting (April 20). Leave it to humans (and especially humans in the U.S.) to make something as essential and simple as collecting water complicated, illegal and a bureaucratic nightmare.

Jeffrey Ensing
Detroit

REAL SUSTAINABILITY

Thank you for the prominent placement of John Zerzan's letter, "EW Fails to Save the Planet" (April 27). It is an irrefutable matter of mathematics, physics and geology that Mr. Zerzan is correct.

While there's a lot of talk about "sustainability," virtually none of it is actually sustainable. When viewed through the lens of a more rigorous set of criteria, you realize that genuine, meaningful sustainability is a dauntingly complex, remote, far-flung ideal that's going to be extremely difficult to achieve.

The good news is that we will achieve it. We have no choice in the matter because to do anything less is unsustainable. The big question is what will the end product look like.

When you factor in climate change, resource depletion, population overshoot, etc., it is not an exaggeration to say that we need a complete, bottom-to-top restructuring of human civilization, and we need it right now. The longer we procrastinate, the more wrenching and traumatic this inevitable transition to sustainability will be.

So, we have every reason to get on with the difficult matter at hand — disruptive as it may be. It is in this sense that our "leaders" are better described as fools and clowns.

Robert Bolman
Eugene

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