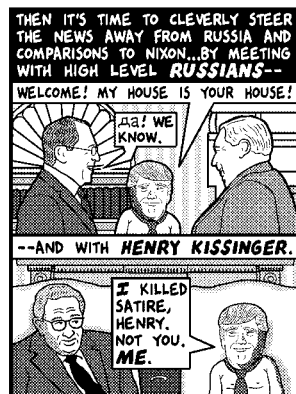
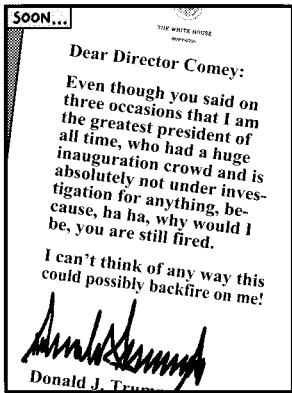
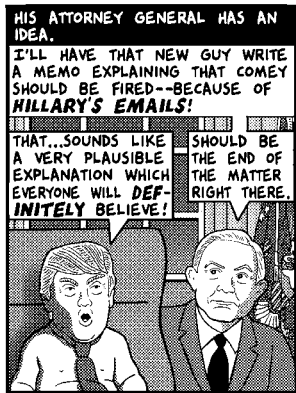


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



OCF STORY POLE DECISION

Congratulations to the Oregon Country Fair board for a wise and prudent decision (May 4, "OCF Cancels Story Pole").

There is a place where style and tradition intersect. But tradition leaves style at the crossroads and goes a longer, proven journey through generations. It takes cultural memory ... where are your ancestors buried?

Although our minds are colonized by the omnipresent corporate dominion, we have to diminish our own colonial attitudes and not squander privilege on ourselves.

Who is setting the agenda? Who has privilege, wealth and control? What is the value of time and the sanctity of place? Not tested by time and place, pop culture goes pop and the weasels are then gone.

Richard Gross
Deadwood

TREATIES WERE CALLED 'VALID,' TOO

What does it mean to say, "The tribes did not respond in an organizationally valid way?" I'm not sure, but it reminded me of DAPL [Dakota Access Pipeline] representatives claiming that Standing Rock people did not respond to their request for input on the Dakota Access Pipeline project. As we later heard, that claim was false.

It's not that hard to get in touch with Native people in Oregon. It's time for white people (I'm one of them) to step outside the comfort zone of cultural dominance.

Kate Tyson
Eugene

YELLOW JOURNALISM

One phrase from the lead article "Wanted: Dead or Online" (May 11) summed up this entirely unnecessary, self-indulgent article by Rick Levin: "morbid curiosity." Yeah, so much fun to dwell on the misfortunes of others, isn't it?

Morbid curiosity indeed, as in watching the aftermath of a car crash to see if there's

blood on the road, or chortling over how so and so fucked up. Well, at least MY shit doesn't stink, hah, hah. Er, um ...

This article belongs in the likes of National Enquirer — or preferably nowhere. Why sensationalize a sad situation? People screw up sometimes, some more often than others. So what?

Since when has Eugene Weekly become a mouthpiece for vigilante style journalism?

I personally don't want to stare at faces of people caught in the moments of their indiscretions.

Especially since the election, there's been an explosion of Us vs. Them smugness and intolerance. The Weekly fuels this undesirable trend with articles such as this that serve no useful purpose. I would hope that the Weekly would build bridges rather than rely on yellow journalism to boost its ad sales. Too much to ask?

On a related note, the cover designs of the last two papers have IMO been ugly and off-putting.

Peter Holden
Eugene

INTERFAITH BEFORE 9/11

Interfaith services in Eugene started before Sept. 11, 2001. For years the interfaith community had Thanksgiving services that brought eight to 10 different religious denominations together demonstrating their prayers of Thanksgiving, followed by a potluck pie dessert.

When 9/11 occurred it was natural for the Eugene mayor to contact the interfaith community for a prayer service. Several clergy and lay people met with the mayor and created a prayer service similar to what had been done for Thanksgivings.

The service was held that evening at Cuthbert Amphitheater. About 400 people showed up.

The next day President Bush declared the coming Friday a day of prayer. Again the mayor met with interfaith community

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