

# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Eugene has a massive budget that no one knows anything about. It's time to add more value to our unique form of government by electing an independent auditor to look at everything.

Robin Bloomgarden  
Eugene

## WYDEN VS. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has co-sponsored a bill to criminalize advocating a boycott of Israel, with "a maximum criminal penalty of \$1 million and 20 years in prison" [see *The Intercept*, July 19]. That would include thousands of Wyden's Oregon constituents, the entire Pacific Green Party and, for that matter, the entire U.S. Green Party.

The danger of the bill passing is real: 43 sponsors in the Senate and a majority in the House. Criminalizing a rival political party is the worst-case scenario of violating freedom of speech, an attack on democracy itself. The only Oregon representatives co-sponsoring this travesty are Greg Walden of eastern Oregon and Kurt Schrader of the 5th District. The ACLU has issued a letter condemning the bill in the strongest terms.

This completely destroys Wyden's credentials as a defender of civil liberties. It's the most outrageous attack on freedom of speech, at the federal level, in many years, and openly un-constitutional.

The *Intercept* article suggests that some senators had no idea what's in the bill, possibly including Wyden, which is, if anything, even worse. It would be shocking carelessness — and blind obedience to AIPAC, an agent of a foreign government.

Charles Newlin  
Corvallis

## NORMALIZE THE BREASTS

"This is a co-ed sauna," the woman at River Road Park & Recreation told me. "Yes, I know!" I replied. "We require that you cover your top and bottom," the lifeguard insisted.

"Oh," I said turning to my partner, who was also topless, "so he has to cover up as well?"

"No, this is only for females," she said, indicating that it was my gender — specifically my breasts — that was the problem.

"Isn't that gender discrimination?" I retorted.

That is *definitionally* gender discrimination. Females aren't permitted to be topless. Males are permitted to be topless. Why am I not permitted to bare my chest in a space where men are? Why is it acceptable to tell women they're doing something wrong when they do the exact same thing as men?

Is it because female breasts are only intended only for the sexual pleasure of others? Are they only for feeding babies? Is it because they'll incite excitement in men's pants? No one says anything when a man goes topless at a sauna, so why is it different for women?

We're supposed to be equal, right? And even if most women choose to cover their breasts, why not allow the breast-carrying members of our community to exercise their right to fair and equal treatment.

I don't want to be discriminated against for having breasts. I'd like to see policy changes that reflect the modern times we're living in. And I want to encourage the normalization, not sexualization, of female breasts.

Ingrid Stevens  
Eugene

## X MARKS THE SPOT

Congratulations to the non-binary community for scoring an "X" designation for their driver's licenses.

However, with 22 other letters to choose from, why did the legislature choose X, which designates the male chromosome?

Youth wants to know.

Fred McCord  
Eugene

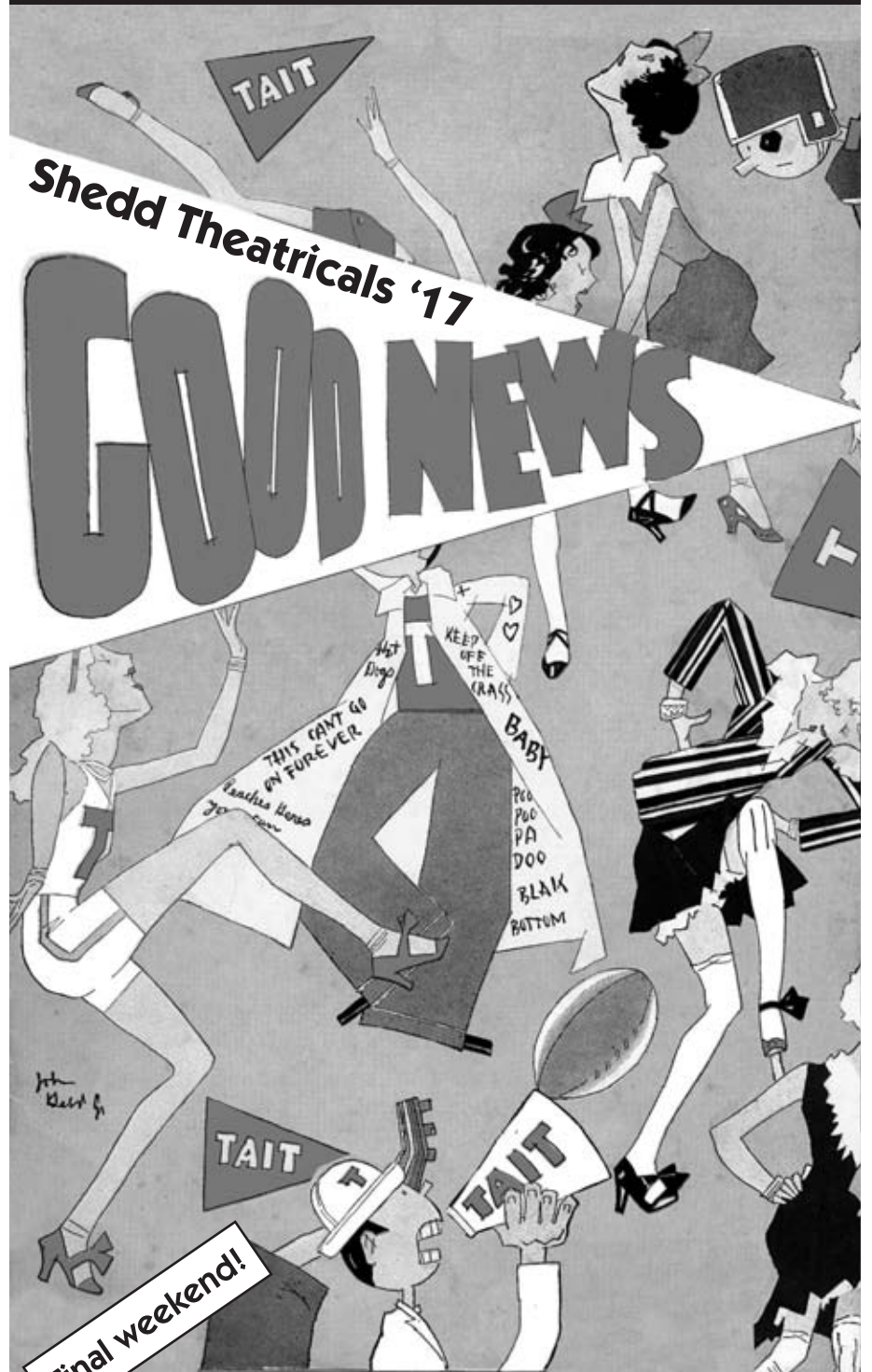
*Editor's note: In our recall of high school biology, males have XY chromosomes and females have XX.*

The Shedd Institute

www.theshedd.org - 541.434.7000



John H. Haines, MD  
Kent A. Karren, MD



July 28, 29, 30 - The Shedd



Oregon Festival of American Music 2017

# The Sweetest Melody

Giants of the Classic Songbook

August 2-12 - The Shedd



John H. Haines, MD  
Kent A. Karren, MD