

YES ON SAFER STREETS

As a frequent bicycle commuter and as a parent, I've been happy to see some of the safety improvements on the roads around town over the past few years: improving bike lanes and creating better crossings for pedestrians.

I also drive when necessary, and I appreciate the repaving projects we've seen — keeping the streets in decent repair seems like a no-brainer.

I know that a most of these projects have been funded by the street-repair bond measure that we Eugene voters have passed twice before. This bond is up for renewal this Election Day.

It's probably not perfect, but it's helping make our city a better and safer place to get around in. It's also just good sense to maintain the streets we have. And it's one of a very few sources of money for this work.

Let's keep this work going. Vote yes on Measure 20-275.

Heather Brey
Eugene

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFETT

Wow, Will Kennedy! Not only are you likely jealous of Jimmy Buffett's lifestyle, you are completely wrong about your review "Raffi for Grownups" (Oct. 12).

Buffett, age 70, gave us two-plus hours of entertainment with a fantastic group of musicians backing him up. He opened the show (at Matthew Knight Arena) expressing appreciation to the crowd, acknowledging that we were spending our time and money to be there, and he made sure we had a good time. The crowd was great, and not all of us are Parrotheads or Hawaiian-shirted ugly Americans who vacation in white-washed Sandals Resorts.

As to your question about the quality of the music, you've probably never listened to his extensive discography. His musical talent combined with his rapport with the audience made it a special evening. He played tribute to artists he's written for, including Van Morrison and the late Tom Petty. Some of his lyrics are beautiful and brilliant, maybe "watery" but not cheap or forgettable.

What I appreciated most is that it was a non-political event, and for two hours we could forget the mess we are in. At the end of the show, he acknowledged that things are weird and scary, and sent us home feeling so much better than when we came in.

Finally, Mr. Kennedy, have you ever been to a Raffi concert? You've picked on two great musicians, who try to show us all, no matter our age, financial status, color or gender, how to live our best lives!

Carole Diller
Eugene

LONG LIVE RAFFI!

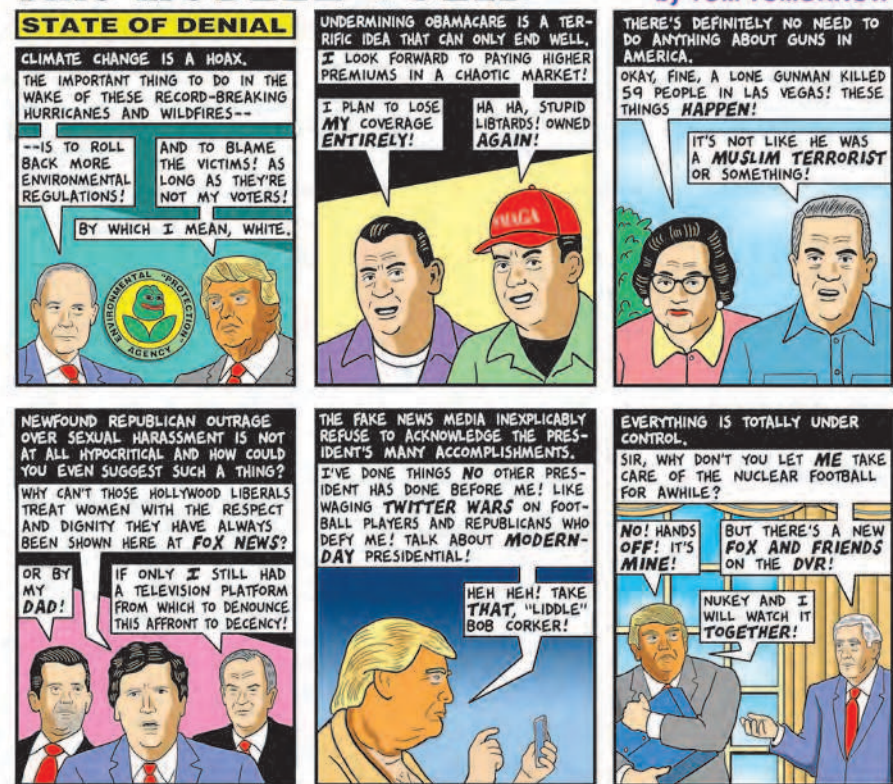
Hey, Will Kennedy: Lighten up.

I can't tell if you are dissing Raffi or Jimmy Buffett (Oct. 12) with your shallow criticism of one of America's most popular and successful songwriters, musicians, performers, novelists and entrepreneurs.

Also, your comments made it seem like you have a problem with Raffi's music. His listeners love him, parents and children alike. Of his latest release, *Box of Sunshine*, a multi-decades collection of songs, his music is described thusly: "Raf-

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



fi's valuable messages of multiculturalism and environmentalism blend together into a wonderful, family-friendly world vision."

His songs for children are smart, often silly, and sometimes poignant. Raffi's music strikes a chord with his young listeners and makes them feel good.

The same can be said of Jimmy Buffett and his music for his adult audiences. While many of his mainstream songs lapse into the silly, feel-good mode, he also writes songs that cut across cultural lines and blend poignant messages of hope and harmony.

The fact that Buffett has been successful in marketing his products does not make him an evil capitalist. He gives his audience what they want. He gives them their own little boxes of sunshine.

What's wrong with that? I'd like to know.
Pat Albright
Eugene

ENTITLEMENT OR FREE SPEECH?

The EW Slant column of Oct. 12 editorialized about a student group taking over the UO president's ceremonial "state of the campus" address. It was to be a piece of ceremonial PR announcing a big donation and maybe not all that important or substantive.

But EW endorsed cutting off the administrator's speech because the students were apparently virtuous members of minority groups. Wait a minute, EW! Do you really want to have the university, which is at heart based on the free exchange of information and ideas, to be overtaken with a "Whoever Can Yell Loudest Gets To Speak" ethic? Might that backfire in the future?

Protest against UO President Michael Schill and the administration's policies are fine — show up with leaflets and posters, make a stir before and after the event, ask tough questions in the questions-and-answers portion of the event. But keeping someone from speaking is plainly and clearly just bullying.

Odd that a newspaper so easily forgets the First Amendment and the principle of free speech.

And as I read the 22 "demands," there's something screwy here. Demand 11 is "freeze tuition, develop a plan to decrease tuition over the next five years." But almost all of the other demands actually call for increased expenditures on a pretty large scale.

Where's the money going to come from? The state has been cutting back its contribution for years, so the only way to meet the "demands" is to cut back elsewhere. Without the protesters giving a plan for cuts, this looks like a pure fantasy: "If you really loved me, you give it to me."

Chuck Kleinhans
Eugene

ABOLISHING SEXISM

I'm glad the University of Oregon is looking into ways to prevent sexual violence, but find it disturbing that Title IX is being used to focus on how college women can report being raped.

Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal assistance."

I would ask UO why they think this amendment was created. It seems to me that the intent is not to deal with rape but to prevent it from happening — to abolish sexism in a place where it can be eliminated, ignored or promoted: education.

I wonder if UO has examined its programs and monetary output for males vs. females to make sure Title IX is being followed — hopefully not because they think they may lose funding, but because it is the right thing to do.

I hear male sports bring in a lot of money. This has reached obscene proportions, from the coaches' salaries to the throwaway thousand-dollar uniforms and all the other perks lavished on these males. The values of brutality and superiority are encouraged, while once more women are sacrificed.

Sexism is alive and well right here, right now, and all too often ignored in our rape culture.

Jean Denis
Eugene

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

Thanks to the article in the *Register-Guard* (Oct. 3) about China's cracking down on our recyclables, we have the perfect opportunity to make a difference.

I'm guessing most people didn't know or care where their items went once they left the curb. Out of sight, out of mind, many probably thought, and "I'm doing my part on saving the world."

Well, folks, you're not (well, hopefully a good portion of you are), and now is your chance to change that. Simply look carefully at what you're putting into your bins, and if need be check the list from your recycling service provider as to what is to go in those bins. If what you put in is considered acceptable, how clean is it?

There are so many things on a bigger scale that we don't have control over, but this is something so simple, so right at our fingertips and curbs, and yet it can have a huge impact on our environment and our lives.

The bottom line, folks, is please take the time to think about what you're putting at your curb and whether it's clean. I know many families' lives are very busy, and it's easy to just toss it in the bin and think you're doing your part. However, as you have hopefully read in the article, because of many people's carelessness, laziness, etc., we are going back to the old days of just throwing things into the landfills.

Kristen Kaminski
Eugene

PAMPHLET APOLOGY

An apology. In the voters pamphlet, I opposed the bond measure "Bonds to Fix Streets and Fund Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects." I did so on the grounds that the 9-1 spending on paving streets to alternative transportation infrastructure was not enough." It isn't.

But I went on to say, "This isn't the right bond for Eugene." And for that I apologize.

Aquila Tax-Free Trust of Oregon, a New York group who manage Oregon Municipal Bonds, identifies the Oregon municipal bond investor as, "Oregon taxpayers who can benefit from income that is exempt from federal and state income taxes."

The logic is: Lacking tax money for basic services, the city taxes us to buy a bond that will provide tax free income to the richest Oregonians?

Outcomes aside, any bond measure impoverishes the community. The \$3.8 trillion dollar bond market uses local governments to funnel money upward to the very people who then, (Citizens United v. FEC) control our government from the top down. That is oligarchy, not democracy.

I want separated bicycle lanes but I cannot support any bond measure. The other day, at the City Club of Eugene, I asked myself, "Who am I? Why am I here?" That was a difficult question. I realized afterward maybe we should all ask ourselves the same question. "Who are we? Why are we here?" Try not to leap to an answer. Sit with it. Then look at this bond measure again.

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