

MEN ARE GOOD

Sunday, Nov. 19 is International Men's Day. Maybe one day during the year we can stop blaming men, particularly white men, for the ills of the world. You might consider a father who daily went to a job he didn't like so you could live comfortably. You might consider the men who created all the things you take for granted, like houses, roads, schools, hospitals and pretty much everything else.

You might consider that the electrical power stays on mostly because of men, that garbage is collected mostly because of men or that the little screen that dominates your attention by dispensing doses of dopamine connects seamlessly to a cellphone tower designed, constructed and maintained mostly by men.

You might consider that three of every four homeless people are men or that 13 out of every 14 workplace injuries and deaths befalls a man. You might wonder why the oppressors live shorter lives than the women they oppress or why men commit suicide far more often than women. Yes, women do attempt suicide more often, but men are better at getting the job done. For one day, maybe you could try the mantra "Men are Good."

Joe Tyndall
Eugene

GIVE DEFAZ A CALL

Nice interview with Congressman Peter DeFazio with his selection as best local politician. ("Best of Eugene Readers

Poll" 11/2) He truly seems like a person who cares and will listen. So give him a call or write a note, asking him to cosponsor House Resolution 466 supporting the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The GPE will help countries provide education for the millions of children and youth out of school. By supporting the GPE's efforts, America can join other countries and individual donors to create a more peaceful world. In addition to reducing conflict, educated populations have lower birth rates, better health, and higher earnings.

This is a perfect step for the man selected as a "world-changer."

Willie Dickerson
Snohomish

BEATING A DEAD HORSE

Every time I see Donald Trump featured on the cover of *Eugene Weekly* (11/9), I wish the paper would apply its resources more strictly to local news.

Ben Ricker
Eugene

TRUMP SONG TRIBUTE

Thank you for your coverage of protest songs last week (11/9), especially Trombone Shorty and Dumpstaphunk's song "Justice." The song features Nick Daniels III, playing a Mana Basso bass made here in Eugene by Tony Walters. It features locally sourced and sustainably yielded woods.

Just another great example of your in-

credible community of artists making an impact worldwide.

Thanks again *EW* for being a beacon of light in the heart of darkness!

Harold "Hal" Henkel
Eugene

PRO ELECTED AUDITOR

While I now live in Portland, I formerly lived in Eugene, and still follow events there. Kudos to those who gathered 13,000 petition signatures to establish an independent elected city auditor for Eugene.

Here in Portland, we appreciate our elected auditor. With a budget of \$10 million and a staff of 50, she provides a good counterweight to the mayor and city commissioners, who are full-time employees managing city departments.

But Eugene has a different form of government. The ballot measure appears to be a vote of no confidence in the mayor and City Council, as it provides them with no new authority or resources to guide the city. Rather the proposal risks creating a power struggle over who really runs the city. The lowly-paid mayor and council have the authority but the highly-paid auditor has her own staff and, potentially, legal counsel.

The mayor and City Council should embrace the need for better city government. Time is running out for them to either support the current proposal as welcome and beneficial, or else offer an alternative they believe will help them serve the community better.

Joe Daunt
Portland

A GOOD START ON AUDITOR

Having run a statewide initiative campaign I can attest to the fact that the petitioners who organized the campaign to gather signatures for an elected city auditor worked hard and deserve praise for their efforts.

I fully support accountability and transparency in Eugene. A performance auditor is one good way to improve the functioning of city government. However, upon reading the text of the proposed charter amendment, I came away with the belief that there are some flaws in their proposal that would make it difficult for me and others to support it.

For example, the cost is very high, there is no residency requirement, there are no checks and balances on the auditor, and some of the language is poorly drafted.


I look forward to learning what the mayor's study group has found and how the city council responds. I applaud the efforts of the petitioners as a good start, but I hope the Eugene City Council finds a way to improve this attempt at establishing an important government position.

David Funk
Eugene

CLOSE GUN LOOPHOLES

We become vulnerable to unreasonable restrictions on our freedoms without reasonable gun regulations. At the national level, we should:

- 1. Ban the sales of the bump stock and rapidly firing weapons.



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