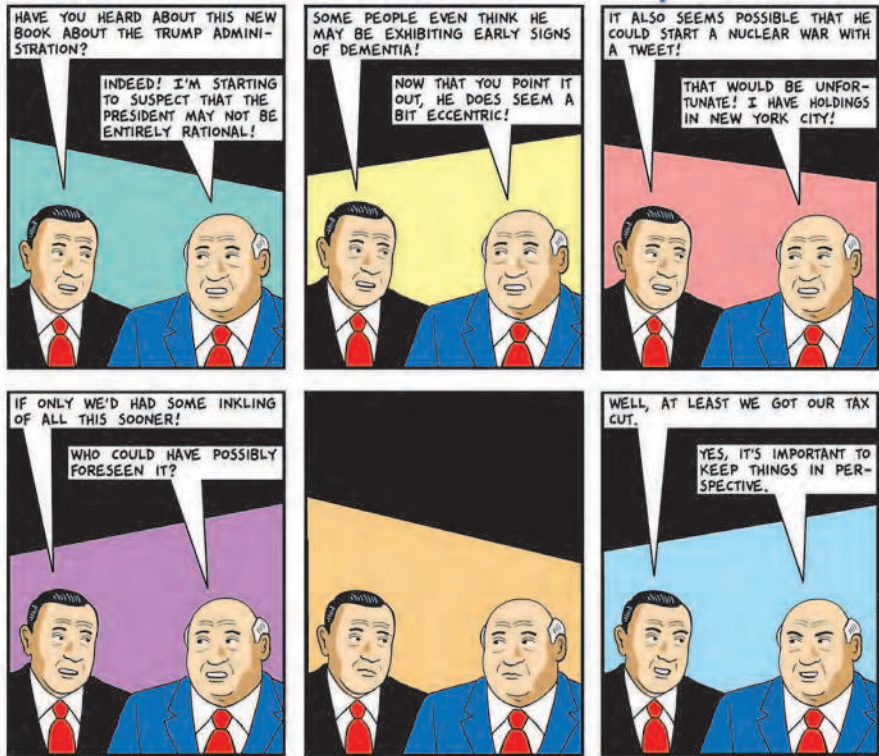


## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



### UNDERMINED EFFORTS

Can I wonder who is really behind the attack against Cylvia Hayes and her goals for clean energy and protecting the ocean? How frustrating to be so close to the governor and the center-of-state efforts on climate change and see only the opposite legislation!

We now have solar credits eliminated, tax on bikes, no transit improvements, increased emissions, high-emission VWs still on the road and another biomass plant proposed!

Ruth Duemler  
Eugene

### BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR

As a nation of religious freedom, Christian sects in America may teach discrimination, and followers like former Gresham bakery owners Melissa and Aaron Klein may harbor belief in those teachings. Nonetheless, laws can prohibit hurtful actions regardless of individual biblical interpretation.

The Kleins did not violate the law because they believe that same-sex marriage violates their religious beliefs, or by saying homosexuality is an "abomination." They violated the law because their business refused to sell a wedding cake.

There are many actions that we no longer sanction. Followers of Christian sects in our historical past hanged Quakers, burned Pagans, banned Catholics from public office and evicted Mormons from state boundaries. Some used bible interpretations to justify owning humans, barring medical treatment from certain races and allowing the rape of wives.

Actions matter, and we no longer tolerate religious interpretation to justify harmful actions, including businesses refusing service to our neighbors.

The USA is as James Madison wrote in 1785, "an Asylum to the persecuted and oppressed of every Nation and Religion." The Kleins may believe what they want, and generally say what they like, but they must control their actions or risk violating our sectarian laws.

Thanks be to the Gods.

Ed Gerdes  
Eugene

### BOUNCING TRANSMISSIONS

Re: Troy Monroe in "On the Rebound" (EW, 1/4): Is that do-rag covering a foil hat? Just curious. Thnx.

Richard Leach  
Coburg

### WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

More than 13,000 Lane County residents have signed petitions in support of a ban on the aerial spraying of herbicides. The signatures were turned in after two years of hard work.

What could have been a simpler process enacting a common-sense law to protect real people was made difficult by the "corporate people" who have the money and resources to obstruct the democratic initiative process that serves Oregonians so well. They continue to obstruct.

Rural families and organic farmers have been victimized for decades. The health issues suffered due to exposure from toxic drift, along with threats to the livelihood of those who grow our food, solely for the convenience of the timber industry, is unjust.

The people prevailed, and submitted signatures that were verified. Now timber industry advocates Stan Long and Dennis Miller have again taken steps to keep the initiative off the May ballot.

If the system keeps the people from qualifying the initiative to protect their health, safety and welfare over the interests of the timber power brokers, then we the citizens of Lane County demand that the Board of County Commissioners put the Freedom from Aerial Spraying of Herbicides Bill of Rights and the companion initiative for Right of Local Community Self-Government (which also had qualifying signatures submitted) on the ballot for our vote.

With elections in May 2018, it is time for the County Commissioners to show us whether they represent the people or the monied timber industry.

Bernadette Bourassa  
Eugene



PeaceHealth patient, MaryAnn, is on the path to a brighter future after weight loss surgery.

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