

ILLEGAL SANCTUARY

My compliments to Henry Houston for his piece on Measure 105 (“A Measured Attack On Sanctuary,” Aug. 2). I was expecting a one-sided smear assault against the sponsors, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center routinely does against organizations and individuals who don’t toe its fringe-left line.

Instead, Houston’s article was fairly well-balanced. My main objections are first, that Oregonians For Immigration Reform is not “anti-immigrant.” OFIR is anti-illegal immigration. Oregon’s far left doesn’t distinguish between legal and illegal immigration. Oregon voters — nearly a million of them — showed that they do in 2014 with their thrashing of Measure 88 (driver cards).

Additionally, local law enforcement is not cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as claimed. The result in a Portland case was two women brutally attacked by an illegal alien who was turned loose despite an ICE hold request. We also saw the recent “stand down” of Portland police when a mob “occupied” the Portland ICE headquarters, despite pleas for help.

Measure 105 is about respecting the law, pure and simple, just as Measure 88

was. Oregon’s sanctuary policy is in violation of Title 8, U.S. Code, Subsection 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) — you can look it up.

Oregon citizens and legal immigrants have nothing to fear from M105. It’s not a matter of right vs. left; it’s a matter of right vs. wrong. Even in this deep blue state voters recognized that in 2014.

We’ll see in November if that sentiment still holds true. I will respect the voters’ decision, whichever way it goes.

*Jerry Ritter
Springfield*

WAKE UP, ASH-HOLES

In response to a writer from last week who seemed to have a huge problem with outdoor smoking locally (Letters, “Smoke and Mirrors,” Aug. 2): Please take all of the energy you are using complaining about something which affects so few, and put it into something like convincing people to use renewable energy, convincing fools that global warming is real and/or get involved in a movement that will effect the lives of many, such as your grandchildren.

In the current world we live in, the Trump administration is tearing apart so many rules and regulations that have kept us all safe. 45 is tearing apart so many things that took all of my lifetime to make

happen, which are, or were, good for us all and the planet.

So rather than complaining, selfishly, that people who have been smoking the whole of their lives, now, shouldn’t even be allowed to smoke outside, I say to you and those like you: “Find something that matters to bitch about” or, as stated above, get involved in something that will affect us all, and future generations.

There are plenty of real problems out there to find, and it is true that if you are looking for something to complain about you will find it. This outdoor smoking problem seems to be more of the latter. And this opinion is coming from a 55-year non-smoker.

*Mike Nichol
Eugene*

LEVELING THE LETTERS

In the July 26 Slant section, *Eugene Weekly*, rightly so, castigated *The Register-Guard* for having days with no citizens’ letters to the editor published.

Though not quite at that level of concern, perhaps a look into *EW*’s own house is in order. In most issues, there are only two pages of citizens’ letters, competing with numerous ads. Odd, because letters to the editor always rank high in the yearly reader’s poll of favorite things about the

Weekly. The other letters are relegated to the online version with it’s new, user unfriendly format.

Come on *EW*, the letters are the first thing many of us look for to keep a pulse on what the community is thinking. Do we have to be plugged in to all the tricknology? Also, why is the satirical, political comic “This Modern World” missing on occasion? Googling it, I have seen no reason.

I realize that this free paper exists because of advertising, but shortchanging public opinion only diminishes its value to the commons.

*Scott Fife
Eugene*

Editor’s note: We love printing readers’ letters and print almost every letter we receive, with preference given to local topics. During elections or when we get a lot of Trump mail, we do put extras online.

DANDY ANDY

Thank you for highlighting Andy Traisman as on of *EW*’s “Happening People” (Aug. 2). His brief bio does not mention it, but he somehow found time to be a wonderful Kidsports coach.

We were fortunate to have our son, Chris, on Traisman’s teams. As a coach, mentor, teacher and role model for these

VIEWPOINT

BY OBLIO STROYMAN

What Pride Means in 2018

A PROTEST AND A CELEBRATION

Pride started to honor a riot at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, a safer space for queer and trans people, POC, drag queens, sex workers and other LGB folks in a time when it was risky to provide this sanctuary.

On June 28, 1969, when NYC police raided the Stonewall Inn, bar patrons and passersby resisted and fought back with trans women of color in the forefront. Thousands rioted in the streets near the Stonewall Inn over the next week. While the Stonewall uprising didn’t start the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, agender/sexual) rights movement, it was a galvanizing force for LGBTQIA+ political activism, leading to numerous LGBTQIA+ rights organizations.

Today we continue to exist in times where LGBTQIA+ protections are repealed at a federal level, and violence at the hand of racist, transphobic and homophobic perpetrators — both uniformed and civilian — are going largely uninvestigated and without justice served. As Pride approaches its 50th year and the Eugene/Springfield Pride Festival celebrates its 27th year, it is essential to examine what Pride means in 2018: What is the same, and what has changed with the blood, sweat and tears of our rainbow predecessors?

Pride is both a protest and a celebration. The protest is the ongoing fight for our rights and for our very survival. It means giving the microphone and center stage to those who are the most marginalized and showing up in every way we can. It means being visible in our radical identities and self-expression uncompromisingly.

The celebration aspect of Pride is often lost behind a cloud of rainbow consumerism, queer tourism, and drunken debauchery. The true celebration by the LGBTQIA+ people for the LGBTQIA+ people is actually a celebration of resilience, that we continue to persevere in spite of efforts to eradicate and invalidate our existence from hate crimes to denial of health care. The celebration is for us to show up in our most authentic expressions and be revered by our peers for the incredibly unique, strong, vulnerable, and loving humans that we are. The magic is that we live, and love, and come out to find one another again and again in the face of very real threats.

When The Wayward Lamb — the only community queer designated space Eugene had seen in years — opened in 2015, the community surged with hope, excited

about the potential cohesion it might bring to our community. While there are many groups, performers and venues that preceded The Wayward Lamb by sometimes decades, when it closed in 2017, it was a galvanizing force for LGBTQIA+ people and allies to step up and assertively create and/or promote opportunities and spaces that support the LGBTQIA+ community.

This is the spirit of Pride: Creating safer and inclusive spaces where there are none; using radical self expression, theatre, performance, music and visual art for protest and self-empowerment; and disrupting processes and systems that support oppression in all its forms to declare we have had enough.

How can you help show Pride? Start with supporting local nonprofits and resource groups like: Trans*ponder, HIV Alliance, Trans*Parent Support Group, As You Like It: The Pleasure Shop and Eugene Intimate Health Center, Tropical Contemporary, UO LGBTQIA3 Alliance, the University of Oregon’s LGBT Education and Support Services, Lane Gender and Sexuality Alliance, United Front: Families Resisting and Organizing Nonviolently Together, Minority Voices Theatre, and The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire.

Support LGBTQIA+ performance groups like: The Farce Family, Glamazons and Unveiled: Eugene’s Queer Burlesque. Support events like: Monique la Faye’s Drag Battle, Cookie’s Cabaret, the Slutasia eXXXperience and her Queen Karaoke, Karess Ann Slaughter’s Drag Bingo, Danny Noall’s Rendezvous, Divas Damsels and Dames, Ladies Who Brunch, Drag Queen Story Time and the OUT/LOUD Queer and Trans Womxn’s Performance Fest!

Be sure to also support LGBTQIA+ inclusive venues like: Spectrum, The Drake, Cowfish, Sam Bond’s Brewing, The Davis Restaurant and Bar, The Barn Light and businesses with gender inclusive bathrooms, agencies that have pursued training in LGBTQIA+ concerns, and zero tolerance for hatred signs.

The best thing that Eugene/Springfield Pride offers is resources and community. Consider it an invitation to collect resources and make lasting in-person human connections. Embody Pride this year — for the entire year — through actively supporting LGBTQIA+ events, groups, venues, and taking your support away from spaces that discriminate, even in small ways.

*Oblio Stroyman is the executive director of Trans*Ponder. Pronouns: they / them / theirs.*