

MIDSUMMER NEWS NIGHTMARE

I have a character in a play living in a wilderness lodge who once a week makes the wintry drive to the nearest post office to which his *Register-Guard* is delivered, then daily doles the morning paper out to himself a week late. So, think I, why not cancel your *RG* subscription and have mail delivery of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, reading the news late, like the play's Walt, gaining the same advantage he claims: Reading about inevitable outrages is a tad less outrageous a few days after it's slipped into history? One phone call answered the question. *The Chronicle* would cost \$840 per year. So much for that idea.

So despite the drastically shrunk news coverage at all levels (including failing to report the eventual indictment and jailing of the Florida white man whom the police had excused on the basis of stand your ground although he fired the fatal shot as the black man backed away); despite space being taken on the baseball stats page for reporting the like of transactions by the Lincoln Saltdogs and the Ottawa Champions (not to mention the River City Rascals and the New Jersey Jackals, nor that many event times are now Eastern, like ESPN); despite paring down editorials and opinion columns to the extent some days there are NONE of either (in the absence of Bob Welch and Jackman Wilson, the former being predictable); despite the near absence of editing that allows the word "icoiln" to show up in an editorial, and (hilariously, really) led to a correction regarding the misstating of the bike rental figure in the previous edition being in the same edition where further on in an editorial they *misstated it AGAIN!* — and these are only two of about 30 gross mistakes while casually reading the thing I made note of; despite all this and much, much more, I'm forced to swallow and swallow and accept that I'm captive to that paper if I'm to have a print newspaper to read with my morning coffee (which, alas, is a paper now so small that it no longer lasts long enough for me to take the editorials and op-ed columns with me for my quotidian visit to the water closet — no political comment intended), and a crossword puzzle to work with a pen while eating my morning meal.

In what other city home to a major university would this happen to a poor old guy? My one-time acquaintance, Bunky Baker, must be writhing in his grave. Sad. For all of you in the same sinking boat, I'll finish by noting that good national and international coverage is available free on the Guardian's and the Hong Kong News' websites, and the *EW* website does a workmanlike job of keeping us up on local and regional goings-on.

John Biggs
Cottage Grove

EUGENE GROUPTHINK

Eugene City Council loves to pronounce imaginary doctrines like this, and repeating them endlessly they adopt them as the truth: They consider Eugene already in compliance with last week's federal court decision that decriminalizes homeless sleeping on public property.

There are many other examples. City council members Betty Taylor and even Emily Semple have said that Eugene already permits Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and is already in compliance with SB 1051 requirements — that all cities shall allow ADUs (second dwellings) on residential lots.

Eugene has 44,000 residential lots and has permitted two ADUs in each of the last three years, a rate of 5 in 100,000. You are more likely to die of whooping cough (5.5 per 100,000 per year) than to get a permit for an ADU in Eugene.

So the City Council would be equally correct to say, "Eugeneans are dying of whooping cough." No, they're not. They are dying of cancer and heart disease; they are not dying of whooping cough, and they are not building ADUs. They are paying half their income in rents and mortgages because of the financial bubble.

So, Eugene is being sued for noncompliance with SB 1051 because Eugene is in such deep groupthink, it is the only way for reality to reach them.

Todd Boyle
Eugene

BEWARE BIG CLEARCUTS

The potential for an out-of-control forest fire in our own backyard is now very real, thanks to the BLM's timber sale auction adjacent to the Thurston Hills natural area. It's called "Pedal Power" — doesn't that sound sweet and fun? I can assure you it is not.

It relies heavily on large-scale clearcuts and undermines the efforts of Willamalane to turn the well-used 655-acre recreation area into a wilderness area — efforts that have been underway since 2012. Despite the fact that the BLM has historically worked with Willamalane to enhance recreation opportunities and wilderness features in the area, this project would put the newly planned 15-mile recreation trail within clearcuts, and it will damage recreation and tourism.

But it can also put lives in danger. Science-backed research tells us that aggressive commercial logging with the replanting of young, single-aged trees will more easily catch fire and burn out of control. We haven't seen a cut of this size so close to town in decades, and for good reason.

Creating these unstable forest conditions so close to communities is simply unsafe and irresponsible.

Kim Kelly
Eugene

Editor's Note: The RG reports the BLM awarded 100 acres of the land adjacent to east Thurston Hills Natural Area to Seneca Timber to log.

KEEP ABORTION SAFE

As a high school counselor, I know this fact: Young women are capable of making excellent decisions about their reproductive health, especially when they are given the supports, information and resources to do so. Measure 106 would reduce access to reproductive health care options.

To me, whose job it is to assure the health and well-being of our young people, Measure 106 — which would cut access to abortions for low-income Oregonians — doesn't make sense at all.

World Health Organization (WHO) statistics show the number of women receiving abortions in places where it's legal and illegal is roughly the same. WHO also shows illegal abortions are unsafe and potentially life threatening.

Consequently, if M106 were to pass, the numbers of young women injured, hospitalized and dying from unsafe abortions would increase. This is untenable anywhere, but especially in Oregon, where we decisively passed into law what has been called the most progressive comprehensive health care bill in this country's history.

A young woman facing an unwanted or unexpected pregnancy deserves the best reproductive healthcare information, resources and supports available.

Please join me in seeing to it that young women throughout Oregon retain the full reproductive health care options available to them right now. Vote "no" on Measure 106.

Tibor Bessko
Eugene

STAR-CROSSED VOTING

STAR voting is a terrible idea ("When You Wish Upon a STAR," Sept. 13). Turning our elections into popularity contests, with voters having to assign "stars" to candidates, would encourage election of celebrities, not serious policy makers. Do we want more stars like Trump at all levels of government?

It's hard enough to get people to vote when they only have to fill in an oval for the candidate they prefer. Making them assign stars to multiple candidates is extremely complicated and will suppress voting by anyone not a political junkie.

The STAR voting proposal on our county ballot would be limited to non-partisan elections, but its backers are honest about their intention to extend it to partisan races as well. If implemented, it would undermine the role of political parties, which provide at least some clue about the policy objectives of their candidates. People would vote for personalities, not political programs. Name familiarity would triumph.

Awarding stars belongs in elementary schools (do they still do that?), not our elections.

Stefan Ostrach
Eugene

Stefan Ostrach serves on the State Committee of the Oregon Working Families Party. The views expressed in this letter are his own.

POLICE STATE

On Tuesday, I passed five cops surrounding a single man on the sidewalk near the intersection of Hilyard and 19th. Multiple cop cars blocked traffic, lights on. As is my new personal protocol, I got out

my phone and filmed. The man was quick to feel me as an ally. He called a stern, "Thank you."

The cops handcuffed the man, they ran a background check and they searched him. They apparently found nothing illegal in their systems check or on his body. They removed the handcuffs.

While the man was searched and I stood by filming, one of the cops asked me how I was doing. I told him I am tired of seeing people who have either markers of poverty or markers of counter-culturalism harassed, if not terrorized, by the state. The cop said, "You're profiling this man."

I said again what I find to be true. Another cop said I was being unkind to the man with my assumption that he didn't have much.

This cop wrote the man a citation. He'd failed to adhere to traffic laws while riding his bike. \$300.

The man: 40ish years old, missing teeth, a sleeping bag tied to his backpack, no associated address. He told me after the cops left, that he'd been visiting a friend at the hospital, wanted to bring her something to eat.

Zondie Zinke
Eugene

NO ON PROP 105

For more than 30 years Oregon law has prohibited the use of state and local resources to enforce federal immigration law if a person's only crime is being in the country illegally. Why?

In large measure, this is because if state and local law enforcement begins to act like immigration enforcement officers, you will have people not reporting crimes. You will have people hiding from the police. The local police chief trying to solve a crime might know people from the immigrant community have information about it, but they may not talk to you if they think you're also going to be enforcing the immigration laws.

That is a real direct threat to the personal safety and security of all Oregonians if Proposition 105 passes in November.

Our immigration issues are a result of the failure of the federal government, and that's where it needs to be fixed. Local law enforcement has a different job than federal immigration enforcement. The problem is the federal government has totally abdicated its responsibility.

Please join me in voting NO on Prop 105. It's not safe. It's not just. It's not Oregon.

Curtis Taylor
Eugene

FIRST NATIONS DISRESPECT

The Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah was the first in our system of protected federal lands to have achieved monument status at the behest of First Nations tribes.

Five nations — the Navajo, Hopi, Ute, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute — had gone through a meticulous process of documenting why the Bears Ears land is important to them. President Obama responded with respect for the indigenous nations and designated Bears Ears as a national monument.

President Trump and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke have revoked that respect and drastically reduced the size of the monument. Zinke was lobbied by the uranium mining industry prior to deciding