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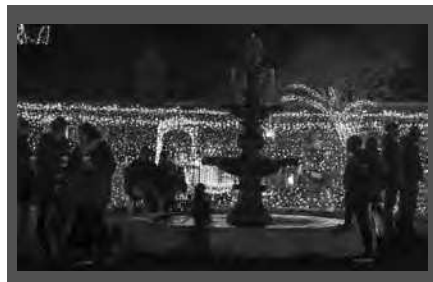
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LETTERS

THE LEFTIST AGENDA

Henry Houston has done his usual good job with his piece on Rep. Peter DeFazio (Nov. 29). DeFazio's comment that he plans to stay in politics until "the U.S. gets rid of Trump [and] Democrats take the Senate" probably means he'll be in politics a long time.

I expect President Trump to be ousted in 2020, largely due to the immigration mess. Even former open borders advocates John Kerry and Hillary Clinton recently acknowledged that uncontrolled immigration is "crushing" Europe. It will eventually overwhelm the U.S., too, but as the November election results indicate, Americans largely don't see that as a problem.

That's a bad omen for Trump and others who support the rule of law.

Regarding the Senate, though, it's a different ballgame than the House, where the liberal enclaves on both coasts hold major voting blocs. The Senate is the great equalizer. Each state — red and blue — has only two senate seats, and the states in the heartland tend to be more conservative. So there's a good chance Republicans will hang on to the upper chamber, at least for awhile.

This and Trump's veto pen likely mean the new crop of "progressives" and socialists just elected to the House will not, at least in the near term, be able to move their leftist agenda. They will, however, stop Trump from advancing many of his priorities. Accordingly, it'll probably continue to be business as usual where little gets done and the division grows worse.

*Jerry Ritter
Springfield*

NO DEFENSE FOR DEFAZIO

For a piece of truly fake news, try Congressman Peter DeFazio's self-defense commentary ("DeFazio on Climate Change," Nov. 29). Responding to a quote in *Politico* and a letter in the *Eugene Weekly* critical of his efforts to address climate change, DeFazio says he's long "talked about carbon pollution and climate change as an existential threat to the planet" and touts his introduction of legislation 10 years ago to "cap, regulate and reduce carbon pollution."

Apparently, DeFazio believes a bill he drafted six years ago, "The O&C Trust Conservation and Jobs Act — whose provisions would strip environmental safeguards for clean water and wildlife and result in 33 square miles of Oregon's public forest lands clear-cut by private industry each year — has nothing to do with carbon pollution and would have no bearing on climate change.

Will the \$500 billion he'll be proposing as chair of the Transportation Committee for highways and transit be predominantly for electric and hydrogen vehicles on pavement made from something other than oil?

Being better than Art Robinson is not good enough in the Anthropocene. As a social liberal, a labor Democrat beholden to timber interests, time and again in the face of environmental catastrophe DeFazio has shown that he is part of the problem, not its solution.

Time for the *Weekly* and its liberal readers to shed their denial and open their eyes: The emperor wears no clothes.

*Robert Emmons
Fall Creek*

EUGENE STATUS QUO

Hello vegans and carnivores: I hold my comments back every day I go among people, so I won't insult anyone individually for his or her eating habits. But it's not polite to publish the cover of the *Eugene Weekly* with gross diagrams of dead bodies (Nov. 21).

Why did you all do that? It's bad enough we have share the planet with humans that care nothing for its spirit, but do you throw it in our faces? I guess the human status quo is still too desensitized from guilt to notice the feelings of those people and animals around them.

It's really sad, because some of you are otherwise really nice. Please wake up and think about becoming vegan. Look up PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) and EVEN (Eugene Vegan Education Network) here in Eugene for advice for how to make the change.

Thank you and good luck.

*Everlynn Gladiola
Veneta*

SAFE VACCINES

Earlier this month Stacey Black submitted a letter decrying the whooping cough vaccine, but her assertions are untrue. The whooping cough vaccine is a safe and effective.

Statements like "78 percent of the people who caught whooping cough in Lane County this year were fully vaccinated" are meaningless without including more demographic information. For example, suppose that out of a population of 100,000, 100 people develop pertussis. Seventy-eight of those people were vaccinated and 22 were not. If we assume a 90 percent vaccination rate, that means 9000 people in that population are vaccinated, and 1000 people are not vaccinated.

78 divided by 9000 = 0.87 percent of the vaccinated people got sick

22 divided by 1000 = 2.2 percent of the unvaccinated people got sick

A much higher percentage of the unvaccinated people got the illness, showing the vaccine has efficacy. This demonstrates why statements like those made by Black are not helpful in determining vaccine efficacy, and how out of context, they can be misleading.

Black is also concerned about formaldehyde in the vaccine. Formaldehyde is used to inactivate bacterial products and decontaminate the vaccine during production. Most formaldehyde is then removed from the vaccine. Formaldehyde is a naturally occurring compound and the small amounts that circulate in the bloodstream far exceed the amount in a single dose of vaccine.

All in all, the pertussis vaccine is safe, effective and helps protect our children from a potentially deadly, contagious disease.

*Emily Dalton
Pediatrician, Eugene
Pediatric Associates*

ACROSS THE AISLE

I read the letter "Guns And Safety" in the Nov. 29 issue of the *Weekly* and felt compelled to respond to Josh Welch's comments.

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