

In my opinion, strident, inflammatory rhetoric such as Welch's (guns as killing machines) serves to do nothing but further divide us in terms of gaining understandings regarding varying backgrounds and cultures around this country.

I am a committed Socialist-Democrat, but I have spent a number of years reading books, articles and talking with people who have grown up in totally different circumstances than mine. This has included discussions with gun owners, both on the left and the right. By reading, by asking questions and listening to folks who have grown up in entirely different circumstances than mine, I have gained insights and understandings about why others think and feel differently than I do.

None of this has changed my core values and instincts, but it has helped me not to judge nor condemn others so often who I don't agree with and has been helping me learn a bit on the value of compromise.

I truly believe that until we can all start talking and listening to others viewpoints with empathy and compassion, we will never come close to being together as a people or as a nation. Let's be careful about our tone and maybe we can start a semblance of healing.

N. Burton  
Eugene

### ROTTEN IN EUGENE

A letter in the Nov. 15 *Eugene Weekly* asked what is the putrid smell that pervades northwest Eugene. Most mornings, one goes outside to greet the day with a deep breath, only to be sent indoors by the truly invasive chemical odor that so often dominates this area.

This is not the result of an inversion, but a consistently awful, manmade stench.

City of Eugene, what is it? Where is it coming from? Would you please do something to make our air fresh again?

Your west side taxpayers need some help here.

C. Tanzer  
Eugene

6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER - 2018  
**NATIVE AMERICAN  
ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8  
11:00AM - 4:00PM**  
AMAZON COMMUNITY CENTER, 2700 HILYARD ST., EUGENE  
Organized by and Supporting Local Native American Artists & Crafters

### POOR SHOWING, PETE

In December of 2016, I contacted Oregon Congressman Pete DeFazio's office and stated that the biggest threat to the nation from the Trump election was a reversal of the Obama measures to address climate change. I stated that monetary resources as well as a coordinated effort by elected officials to inform the public of the disastrous impact this would have on the planet and future generations were essential.

Never heard from Pete.

DeFazio has and continues to say the right things but never with the required urgency and fervor. The hands on hips, plaid shirt and Levis are a strong image. But on climate change, he is a milquetoast.

Watch *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, Pete, and grow a pair.

Lee Gire  
McKenzie Bridge

### NARROW CONCERNS

I was perplexed by Deb McGee's letter to the editor in last week's *Eugene Weekly* ("Hey Dems" Nov. 21). She would seem to be categorizing Congressman Peter DeFazio as one of the "corporate Dems."

This is a bizarrely incongruous label to apply to someone who stands up against big corporations with the courage, knowledge, skill, stamina and hard work that DeFazio brings to the battles he fights on our behalf. I don't always agree with him, but I do feel that he deserves our heartfelt appreciation.

McGee's uninformed, hectoring fervency feels to me like something I might rather expect from the Right. It is not only saddening but, more than that, frustrating to find this tone being used in support of values I share. It is not persuasive — instead, it makes vital environmental and climate concerns sound narrow, shrill and malicious.

Carlis Nixon  
Eugene

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- |   |  |
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| 1.26 Kalani Pe'a                                    | 2.7-10 The Jazz Kings: Tonight<br>You Belong To Me           |
| 1.27 microphilharmonic:<br>Society of Private Music | 2.13 Ehud Asherie plays<br>Ernesto Nazareth                  |
| 1.31 Jake Shimabukuro                               |  |
| 2.2 Lovett & Hiatt (Sold Out)                       |  |