

notoriously, the anticipated Cascadia Subduction Zone 9.0 magnitude earthquake, a West Coast-centric seismic event).

What possibly could be the rationale for an advertisement for big East Coast city emergency planning? Hurricanes? Winter ice storms? Different conditions on different coasts equal rather different plans, right?

I await illumination.

Jennifer Rowan-Henry
Eugene

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS

This letter is for the lonely hitchhiker with your thumb in the air along the equally lonely stretch of rural McKenzie Highway late Christmas night. The two folks who whizzed past you in the blue hatchback were startled at someone coming out of the mist like that, and a little self-protective, too. However, we saw you, we knew and we turned around less than a quarter mile ahead to come back and see if we could help you.

But you were gone.

We turned around and drove past the place where you'd been three times, but you were gone.

So, if you were a stranger in need, you were not left out there alone, though we did not reach you in time. If you were a ghost or spirit traveling the roads, you were not unseen.

Either way, travel in peace.

B.E. Scully
Leaburg

RESPECT AUTHORITY

In reference to the video of the man being asked to leave the Portland Double Tree, I think that he can learn a valuable lesson from the results. At least I hope he learns something.

A similar event happened to me while I was a student at the University of Oregon. I was walking home through the graveyard and there was a police car inching around the paths. The officer stopped me and said that I was trespassing, and asked for my identification.

Same as at Double Tree, there were other people walking around and I grew defensive. I asked why she wasn't stopping other students as they walked past. Why was I singled out? She called for another officer to come. He confirmed that I was trespassing and that, if I permitted them to search my backpack, my person and allow a photo to be taken of me, that I wouldn't be given a citation.

I was a broke college student, so I had to consent. What I learned was that you don't get anywhere questioning authority. If a security guard asks what your room number is, then you tell him. Skin color is irrelevant. If you are lounging around with your feet on the sofa and refuse to say what room you are in when asked, expect to be kicked out.

We don't have a right to freedom from judgment.

Eric Huestis
Eugene

THE FIGHT GOES ON

Community Rights Lane County (CRLC) continues to work toward real democracy, where we the people make decisions that protect our health, safety and welfare. Our sister organizations, Freedom from Aerial Herbicide Alliance (FAHA) and Our Community Our Rights (OCOR), are continuing their march for justice as they challenge the county's action to block their initiatives from the ballot.

The decision affecting FAHA's aerial spray ban initiative has already been challenged in Lane County Circuit Court, and is now on appeal to the Oregon Court of Appeals. That challenge is ongoing and will take many months to reach a conclusion.

The decision affecting OCOR's Right to Local Community Self-Government initiative, which gives communities the right to write and pass laws to protect themselves from harmful corporate activity like aerial spraying, was brought before the Lane County Circuit Court in a hearing on Nov. 5, 2018, and we are awaiting a decision in that case.

We believe these cases are strong and expect to prevail.

Regardless, until laws that favor the planet and all her creatures are elevated above corporate profits, CRLC will continue to persevere. We will be increasingly active in 2019.

Consider joining us in the important work of creating actual democracy. Visit communityrightslanecounty.org.

Michelle Holman
Deadwood

THE ELECTION NEXT TIME

Now that we have the November elections over, we can evaluate the "next time." The media frequently comments that our president was elected. This was not so. He did not receive the majority vote of an election. He was "selected" by a group of electors — people who were chosen by someone else. They followed the "rules" of the various states in casting their vote.

If the rules had been that the winner had to be a deceased canine — the dead dog would have won the presidency.

A change in our state law would help to elect a president by popular vote. We have one Democrat Senator who holds up that change. Neither we, nor the Republican or Democratic Party, are able to do anything about this. This state led the way 100 years ago in electing our state senators instead of having them appointed by others.

Now we don't seem to be able to manage the "popular vote" issue for president.

One man holds it up — even the discussion in the legislature of the issue.

So how can we make "Oregon great again?"

Bob Cassidy
Eugene

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