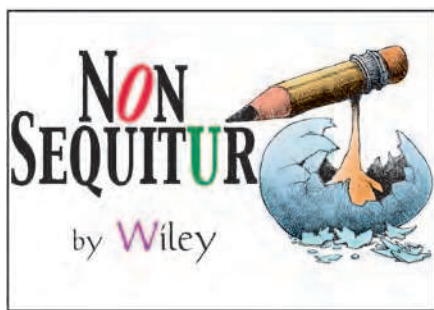






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SEX ED

My name is Ilka Sankari, and I'm a junior at South Eugene High School. Last week, the crisis pregnancy center Dove Medical taught abstinence-only education at my school. This is not an isolated incident; they've taught at 4J schools before. Their curriculum, "Stop and Think," works to convince young people that abstaining from sex is the best choice.

This kind of education shames young people who are sexually active, want to be or have been sexually assaulted, by implying that those who've had sex are less valuable.

In addition, abstinence only education doesn't work. Research shows that it correlates directly to higher teen pregnancy and STD rates.

Teens aren't going to stop having sex; schools should be teaching us accurate information to manage the risks that come with sexual activity. Planned Parenthood is an excellent resource for educating students, and they do teach abstinence as an option for preventing pregnancies — just not the only option.

This kind of "education" should never have been allowed by the school board, which is why we need someone like Dr. Martina Shabram to fight for students. She's running for a 4J board seat Position 5 this May, and as a student who cares about medically accurate sex ed, I support her.

*Ilka Sankari
Eugene*

DARK HUMOR

Re: the letter "Are Beloved Leader" (March 7): Thank you for this masterful lampoon. The piece is a brilliant construction of content, semantics and grammatical vagaries.

Even dark humor can bring a brief beam of light.

*Sally-Jo Bowman
Springfield*

NEITHER RAIN NOR SLEET

Our recent snowstorm was a great example of how people can come together in time of need and help out neighbors and strangers. I witnessed several acts of assistance and kindness and was helped when my vehicle was stuck in snow at the south Eugene Post Office.

The reason my vehicle was stuck is because no one at the south Eugene Post Office bothered to shovel any part of the sidewalks or parking lot for their patrons during the entire period of snowfall. Not one employee was willing to take the responsibility to care enough about their patrons, many of which are elderly and disabled, to shovel even a small path on the sidewalk so they could safely get from their cars to the entrance.

I find their lack of caring to be both disgraceful and utterly negligent to the need for their customers' safety.

From the *Postal Employee's Guide to Safety*: "The Postal Service® is committed to providing its employees and

customers with a safe and healthy environment and complying with applicable safety laws and regulations. A key strategy in the Postal Service's Transformation Plan is building a highly effective and motivated workforce. A safe and healthy workplace, free from safety hazards, is important for helping us achieve that goal."

Maybe somebody at the south Eugene Post Office could start following these guidelines.

*Derek Vincent
Eugene*

DON'T BLAME THE POOR

A letter by Gary Williams in the Feb. 28 *Eugene Weekly* contends the world's greatest problem is that the planet has too many people. The rhetoric of individuals like Williams serves as an attempt to shift the blame for global warming and other pressing issues onto poor people and people of color.

In fact, the real culprits are those in the world's richest countries who are consuming more than their share. Population sizes among the world's poorest people might be increasing, while they contribute almost nothing to global warming. Some of them do not own a single electric light bulb.

People in the U.S. must accept the fact that, with a few exceptions, they and other people in the richer countries have caused the lion's share of greenhouse gas emissions. A good place to start would be a bill currently before Congress, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763), which the Citizens' Climate Lobby is supporting.

The bill would give people incentives to reduce the size of their carbon footprints while protecting low-income people by returning the revenue to households on an equal basis.

*Milton Takei
Eugene*

CODDLING POLLUTERS

Apparently the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) is not interested in educating or notifying the public regarding the renewal of pollution permits for Lane County's largest polluting facilities, International Paper and Kingsford Briquettes of Springfield.

The expiring emission permits allow these facilities to spew more than 2,300 tons of particulates, 1,600 tons of sulfur dioxide and 530,000 tons of greenhouse gasses into our air shed every year.

We've requested LRAPA to hold public informational meetings regarding the amount, health impacts and which measures can be taken to reduce pollutants. Instead of welcoming public participation, however, LRAPA hides behind thousands of pages of documents, loopholes and agency-speak.

Oregon law does not currently require Title V emission permit holders to reduce pollutants unless they propose increasing emissions. Multinational corporations abetted by Oregon DEQ have abused this loophole for decades while

Oregonians are granted asthma, cancer and death.

In 2019 Oregon DEQ and LRAPA will be implementing the new Cleaner Oregon Air Act. However, this proposed law does not mandate existing facilities reduce toxic pollutants.

It appears Oregon DEQ and Oregon legislators' only goal is to shield corporate polluters and avoid their tax-payer funded duties to protect Oregonians' health.

*Shannon Wilson
Eugene*

POISON PAYS

I am shocked and dismayed that the current issue (*EW*, March 7) includes an ad for Roundup.

*Ray Cesaletti
Eugene*

THE WINNING HANDJOB

Finally, some letter writers that live in the real world. Nice to finally see something in *Eugene Weekly* that does not spread bile about our president.

Brian Palmer had a great letter (Feb. 28) about immigration that the liberals will have a hard time answering. Just how many of these wonderful folks can we support? If I wanted to live in the Third World, I can always sneak in. I wonder if they will be as nice as we are and let me sign up for free education and school for my kids?

Also, Greg Williams had a great letter (Dec. 20) about global warming that had me rolling on the ground laughing about the thought of the seals breathing a sigh of relief with the demise of the polar bears.

EW, keep it up with the letters from opposing sides, as the same-old-same-old has grown stale. Trump bad and all socialists good is not a winning hand in my book.

*David Northey
Walton*

BANKRUPT FOR BULLETS

The "Housing Problem" recent letter caught my eye (Feb. 28). Never in my life have I seen so many destitute people on our streets. Did you know that 1,642 homeless individuals were counted on Jan. 31, 2018, in Lane County?

On March 11, President Trump is expected to call for deep cuts to non-defense programs while increasing defense spending in his FY2020 budget plan. Out-of-control defense contractors help drive up military spending. The CEOs of the top five defense firms took home \$97.4 million in 2017.

We need to reject Trump's spending cuts and invest in housing assistance and other critical services that reduce poverty.

We can make a difference! Call the D.C. offices of Sens. Ron Wyden (202-224-5244), Jeff Merkley (202-224-3753) and your U.S. representative, and tell them to reject Trump's budget proposal. The aide who answers the phone will be happy to relay your brief message.

*Donna Schindler Munro
Bremerton, Wash.*