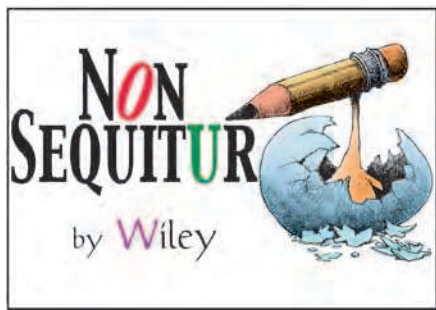




letters

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Arthur Waterbridge's letter ("This Should Go Over Well," 3/21) takes issue with the phrase "toxic masculinity," used in the previous week's cover story about axe throwing. In the cover story, the teenage son reveals (tongue in cheek) that his technique is to aim the axe at "toxic masculinity," a reference to the manliness of axe throwing and masculinity's undesirable elements.

The letter to the editor satirically calls it a "hate term" against Latinos and African Americans, claiming that certain behavior is endemic to "their culture." He completely ignores slavery, Native genocide, U.S. takeover of Mexican territory, etc., etc., implying instead that the traditional American view is that of white gentility: "To our traditional American view, the way Latinos and African Americans treat women might be seen as objectionable."

For proof, Waterbridge suggests we listen to rap music, and he points to the disproportionately high arrest rate of people of color — for rape, he claims. He doesn't discuss the oppressive origins of multigenerational poverty among minorities, along with the issues of profiling, inequitable prosecution of equal crimes or the cross-cultural-ness of sexual assault.

This is white supremacy, of course. Membership in white nationalist groups went up 50 percent last year, reports the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Over the dinner table, we just discussed what we'd say after hearing someone stereotype people of color as being inherently anything, or as being inferior somehow. I'd fact check them, and point out that the White House is employing classic "divide and conquer" tactics: instilling fear and hate to wield control for personal profit.

Erica Walla
Eugene

STEREOTYPES ALL AROUND

Re: Mr. Arthur Waterbridge's ideas (3/21) of why men of color are culturally predisposed to being violent to women: WTF? I read his words over and over, first in disgust at the stereotypes, then to

make sure he wasn't just being sarcastic.

You show me any culture, any color, and I'll show you some men who will treat others with disrespect and violence.

Does Waterbridge deny that some rich white men buy their (and their kids') way to the front of the line or use people of color for slave labor or cheat on taxes and beat their wives? How about the poor men in "fly-over" U.S.A. that are addicted to everything, beat their wives, sleep with their daughters and blame the "elite Left" in big cities for all their woes. Is this their traditional American culture?

What Waterbridge is reiterating is the mantra that has been coming from EIB, FOX and Coast 2 Coast broadcasts for over 25 years.

Crap sells. Period. And there are about 100 million people in the U.S. who are more than ready to believe lies, condone immorality and perpetuate stereotypes just to belong to a group. Sad — and dangerous.

I'll say this: If there is a real God and humans are created in his image, "he" is one sorry SOB.

Annie Kayner
Eugene

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Regarding your article "Not Up for Debate" (March 21) about "the Environmental Science Academy at Churchill High School in Eugene," I would like to point out a few things you forgot to mention. Quotes are from the article; comments are mine.

"Occasionally students ask if they are going to present material showing the other side. Ruggiero tells them, 'This is a science class; I teach the science. If you can find something that's science-based, I am happy to preview it. Please, prove me wrong, I would be thrilled!'"

Fact: The word "science" is more of a verb than a noun; the scientific method is what we should be talking about. All models have failed spectacularly; to reference her boycott of any opposing positions would precluded her to accept any ability to "thrill" her with alternative proof. What happened to the facts?

"Sarah Stapleton, assistant profes-

sor of education studies in the teacher education program at the University of Oregon, is an expert in science education. 'I'm not trying to tell students what to believe or think, but my job is to help them understand the science and to look at the facts — to ask, 'What does scientific consensus mean?'"

Fact: I would refer her to Albert Einstein who famously said, "Why 100 authors? If I were wrong, then one would have been enough!"

Consensus is utterly irrelevant to science. The philosophy of science is devoid of consensus. Next time you bathe in the beauty of a field of wildflowers, thank CO2.

Mark Fiser
Eugene

CULTURAL ERASURE

Thank you for including a piece about Mariachi Herencia de Mexico performing at The Hult Center ("Look Back to Heritage," March 14). I unfortunately was unable to attend but it was pleasing to see it in your weekly.

So, onto the other reason I am writing you. In your article you state that this helps students connect to their heritage and to provide exposure. Up until this summer, the Eugene Public Library had a weekly "Cuentos y Canciones" (story and music time) at the Bethel branch. It was a staple of my family's routine.

My daughter does not have access to the Spanish language or her Mexican heritage as much as I would like, and going to "Cuentos y Canciones" every week was my way of making up for the deficit. Going to "Cuentos" was a way for me to help her bridge the gap between her two cultures. It was always a fun event and I loved all the different artists that came to perform.

It is greatly missed and I wish the Eugene Public Library would have either asked families or better explained why they abruptly stopped it. It almost seems like a purposeful erasure of culture.

Sara Victoria Lopez
Eugene

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