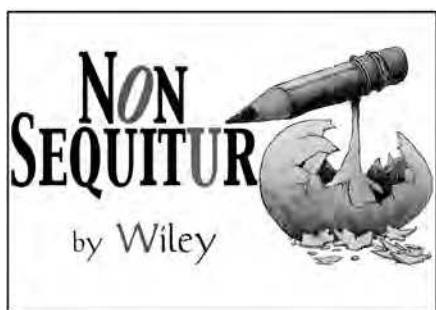




letters

PUNK ROCK

It was refreshing to see the write up “This Time It’s Personal” (*EW*, 4/4) about the punk band AJJ returning for another show in Eugene. Punk music often does not get enough credit and is frequently overlooked.

To quote the article: “Most of all, AJJ plays punk-folk protest music for our times, infused with the dread of Flint’s poisoned water, late-stage capitalism and the nihilism of climate-change denial.”

This really speaks to the very core of what the punk genre has always been: a politically minded, conscientious group of caring people who are fed-up. They are motivated to speak out against injustice and speak up for the marginalized.

Punk is about fighting the failing parts of social and governmental systems, and the toxic byproduct that comes from what the wealthy corrupt corporate feeds the mainstream.

In this era of the Trump administration and all that it carries with it, this protest is more crucial now than ever. I would love to read more articles promoting politically aware punk musicians. Cop Out and Leftover Crack are a couple good ones.

Audrey Scully
Eugene

MAYORAL MISINFORMATION

Mark Twain said if you don’t read the newspaper you are uninformed and if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. “Climate Laws” (*EW*, 4/4) by current and former mayors Lucy Vinis and Kitty Piercy was misinformation.

They claimed addressing climate change will boost economic growth. In reality, investing in solar panels might mitigate the downslope. Endless growth required ever increasing consumption of finite resources.

Eugene’s climate law mandates buying “carbon credits,” not major shifts in polluting behaviors. Giving public funds to private consultants does not reduce dependence on concentrated energy, re-localize food production or create more cooperation.

Good Company, a consultancy that

helped create Eugene’s climate plan, is now promoting plastic incineration for the American Chemistry Council. Perhaps they can market “cancer credits” to offset the health impacts.

In 2006, Mayor Piercy introduced a lecture by Richard Heinberg of Post Carbon Institute, one of the few voices who integrates climate concerns with the physical reality of fossil fuel depletion. Shortly afterward, her policy response was to recommend another parking garage for downtown Eugene.

At least Piercy made City Hall carbon neutral — by demolishing it.

“Climate Laws” claims we have “11 years” to solve the problem. In 1990, the U.N. Environment Program warned the 1990s would be the decade of decision.

In Salem, Gov. Kate Brown and the Democrats let solar energy tax credits expire, with little objection from climate activists. I’m more interested in the laws of thermodynamics, which are not changed by political rhetoric and greenwashing.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

AUGMENTED REALITY

Moore’s Law still applies: Back in the late ’90s the *Dallas Times Herald* in Texas brought out Copycat, a bar-code reader shaped like a cat, of course, that allowed you to read additional info on an article with a swipe of the hand.

Now, with a glance, we can do so much more (*EW*’s Tech Issue, 4/4). Nice.

Geo Malmos
Eugene

FIREARM SAFETY

Children will encounter scenarios legislation can’t prevent (“Kids and Guns,” *Letters*, 4/4). The suggestion — to “hold gun owners accountable for responsibly storing their guns” as an alternative solution — is focused on legislating the aftermath of horrific events rather than preventing them.

Derek LeBlanc has worked diligently with representatives on both sides of the aisle presenting prevention-based legislation. I’ve attended his course and wit-

nessed his dedication to inform children about a real-life scenario if they encounter a firearm that is not “responsibly stored.”

I sympathize with concerns about “firearm safety for first graders,” but have you read the bill? The classes are nonpolitical; they neither encourage nor discourage gun ownership. At no time may any real firearm or live ammunition be used or possessed during the class. They’re a half-hour each year during recess. Parents are given notice so they may opt out and children can go to recess rather than participating.

While taboo for parents who don’t own guns, I recommend considering LeBlanc’s program, regardless of whether the bill passes. Treating this subject with fear-mongering ignorance isn’t going to prevent accidents.

Regardless of your ideologies about gun ownership, this bill is focused on giving children necessary information that could save lives. It is deeply disappointing anyone would oppose this bill, saying it’s “wrong to put the burden of firearm safety on children.”

You are accepting the burden of your children not being prepared for these real life scenarios, and the responsibility for accidents it could prevent.

Randall Bonner
Corvallis

THAT’S THE JOKE

Unfortunately, your attempt at humor with the “April Fool” issue (*EW*, 3/28) is both embarrassing and offensive.

The cover article is especially abrasive. Kitty Piercy is an old story. The only reason she continues to have shelf life is because her hand picked successor, Mayor Vinis, is so weak and ineffective.

This is the woman, after all, who championed demolition of Eugene City Hall. Its empty site is now, five years later, turning into a parking lot with prospective revenues expanding the coffers of Diamond Parking in Seattle.

This story and its companion “comedy” pieces are neither funny nor informative, but simply stale recitations of the same kind of “magical thinking”

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