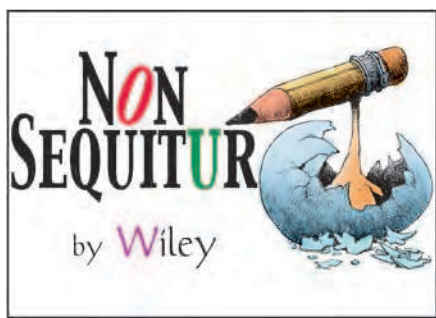




letters

STOP MAKING SENSE

The play *Sons of the Prophet* is fast-paced, comical and tragically tumultuous in its portrayal of intersubjective relationships that transgress the borders of family, individual psyche, jobs, dreams and failures.

The dialogue often moves into a babble that doesn't allow us anymore to distinguish between individual voices. Malek Najjar, director, and Alex Mentzel, lead role, explained how the script often specifies silent moments for the actors. They have to stop in the middle of a sentence but are told to continue thinking, without voice. Other voices jump in, take over and get involved in a cacophony of voice-like sounds. This seems to be the current theatrical style. The skillful dialogic timing, where every second counts, plus the pauses were thoroughly rehearsed and well executed.

The dialogic pace is similar to that in Selina Fillinger's (Eugene's own young and celebrated author and dramatist) *Something Clean*, recently produced in New York. The dramas' play with meanings and the voices' soundscapes should be seriously considered.

In her review of *The Sons of the Prophet* in the recent *Eugene Weekly* ("Tangled Dramedy," 2/6), Dorothy Velasco desires a narrower, more focused topic — as we all might. However, our post post-modern life is much too tangled for such a dream. The characters in *The Sons of the Prophet* are overwhelmed by inner and outer events, and they are expressions of much larger than subjective issues. The grotesqueness of life whispers through their silences, as well as through the irony between the wisdom of Khalil Gibran and the senselessness of reality.

Dorothee Ostmeier
Eugene

CHECKING OUT

I just don't get it. Our planet has way too many people on it. Too many people consuming too many things and creating too much trash while wrecking the climate and wildlife populations in the process. Too many people are having too many babies who are then also having too many babies.

The whole thing is getting worse and worse. Yet we denounce suicide ("Out of Focus," 1/30). What the hell is wrong with suicide? If somebody, old or young, wants to check out, why not let them? Why not help them (helpus) once they have made the choice? Why is it a terrible human tragedy when the teen suicide rate goes up?

Seems to me it would be good to get them gone before they birth more humans. Why is it alarming that middle-aged and older adults want to die earlier? Seems to me that they have figured out what they want, what is best for them. Who are we to try and stop them? We should be helping them by removing the stigma and even providing a safe way and place to do it.

Why not let prisoners die by euthanasia if they choose to do so? That sure would save the rest of us a hell of a lot of money. I chalk all the suicide hysteria up to prevalent fucked up Christian morality in this country.

What ever happened to freedom of religion or just plain old freedom to do with your life whatever you choose? Why is suicide not a basic human right?

Jim Flynn
Springfield

TUITION DISASTER

The University of Oregon's Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) is quickly ramrodding another rubber stamp proposal for UO President Michael Schill. They hope to have a recommendation for a "graduated tuition" plan on Schill's desk by the end of the month. TFAB is holding a series of three 8 am public meetings in the next two weeks to pull it off. The graduated tuition proposal will lock in tuition rates for five years for incoming students but will allow TFAB to increase tuition for each incoming class. It isn't clear if they will have to get approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Committee to make tuition increase over 5 percent if they only raise tuition for only a segment of the student population.

For students, this means the utter collapse of unity against tuition increases and the continuing marginalization of in-state students at UO. The TFAB board has

continually stated that graduated tuition will expose UO to greater financial risk but are committed to the proposal as a marketing ploy to increase out of state enrollment.

With the current rogues' gallery of corporate oligarchs on the UO Board of Trustees, risk exposure sounds like the prefect recipe for crisis restructuring and institutional privatization.

Eric Howanietz
Eugene

NO KOBE BEEF

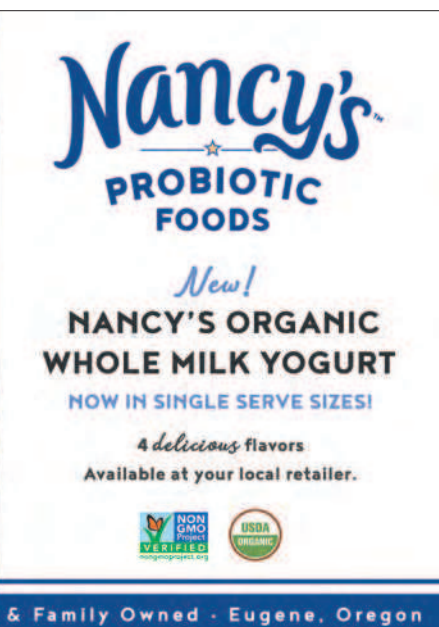
In November 2007, Billy Thorington of Davenport, Iowa, buried his 15-year-old son, Cody, who had died of a rare form of cancer. Prior to the burial, Thornton placed a Kobe Bryant jersey in Cody's casket. He did this not only because Cody had been a huge Bryant fan but also because Kobe had personally given him the jersey after a Laker's game attended by Cody and his entire family, which had been arranged by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The foundation has also confirmed that Kobe Bryant had granted similar wishes to more than 200 children like Cody over the course of his career.

He had also done much to promote women's athletics. LeBron James once asked him if he was disappointed to not have a son to follow in his athletic footsteps. Bryant responded by telling James that he didn't need a son because he had a daughter who was following in his footsteps. Speaking as a father, that's what real fathers do. I think the world would be a more compassionate place if we had more men like Bryant who choose to act rather than to just criticize other fathers by writing uniformed letters to the editor.

Shame on *Eugene Weekly* for printing uniformed and inaccurate non-sense (Letters, 2/6) and then attaching a reactionary headline to it (which I won't repeat here). So much for journalistic integrity. Your time would be better served in the future by fact checking before you insult someone who, like us all, had flaws but who consistently showed up for terminally ill children and women's athletics, as much as Bryant did in his short life. That's what real journalists do.

Gary Rutledge
Eugene



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