

letters

YES, OUR PANEL SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DIVERSE

In the July 7 Slant column, the *Weekly* suggested that City Club of Eugene should have had more female representation on our July 8 program, “Can Local Newspapers be Saved?” A week later, Lou Caton asked why the *Weekly*’s editor declined an offer to ask a question at the program (“Why Not Engage the City Club?” Letters 7/14). The *Weekly*’s editor noted that they brought their concerns to the City Club Program Committee instead.

City Club appreciates this feedback. It helps us to be accountable and to better deliver our mission: “to build community vision through open inquiry.” We acknowledge that the range of speakers on this subject should have been more diverse, and we are committed to delivering programs that represent and engage perspectives from our whole community. We also appreciate that the *Weekly* acknowledged the qualifications of the speakers, and encouraged its readers to listen in, both before and after the program.

The First Question at the program was asked about diversity, by Molly Newhard, editor of LCC’s *The Torch*, and it deserves a more expansive answer. We hope to work with the *Weekly* and other local journalists to coordinate a program about diversity in the media in fall 2022.

Lastly, a reminder that anyone can suggest an idea for a City Club program. Please visit CityClubofEugene.org, select the “Forums” tab and click “Suggest a Forum” from the menu. Fill out the form with your idea, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Joel Korin
Program Committee Chair
City Club of Eugene

WOMEN ARE TIRED OF BEING IGNORED

Kudos to *Eugene Weekly* for encouraging some non-dude-centric letters (Letters, 7/14). In this sexist world, I needed a little encouragement.

In the middle of the grief over the loss of every woman’s right to choose, my 19-year-old daughter is struggling with severe endometriosis. I have watched her experience sexist treatment in health care routinely. Endometriosis is not widely known, as it is estrogen-driven and therefore largely affects people with uteruses. Her severe pain has been

belittled even by her own gynecologist, who last month said, “Call us back when the pain is more severe.”

The countless times she has ended up in the ER with severe pain, she has been given a pregnancy test routinely. It does not matter that she explains she has not been sexually active. Even when I have been with her and verified information, a pregnancy test has been given “just to make sure.” Sometimes, she’s been tested without her knowledge and told afterward, “Well, you’re not pregnant.”

There’s an underlying assumption that if you’re a woman of a certain age, complaining of abdominal pain, you cannot be trusted to simply verify that there’s no way you could be pregnant. You’re told, “We just want to be on the safe side.” Perhaps the thinking is, as a woman you’re having sex with people without your knowledge, or maybe it’s the hope for another immaculate conception.

This seems to fit right in line with our national fundamentalist Christian beliefs. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!

Melissa Ivan
Eugene

LTD SHOULD SERVE ALL THE PUBLIC

Thank you for your eye-opening June 23 story “Oregon22 Transit Relay.” Reading it motivated me to contact Bill Bradley with the transit union to inquire who I should contact at LTD with my concerns.

Then I emailed LTD spokesman Pat Walsh and sent the same email to interim General Manager Mark Johnson. I don’t know whether I’ll receive a direct response from LTD, but I’m now motivated to write to you folks at the *Weekly* because I haven’t seen any letters (in your print edition) from readers about your story.

Without a car for the entire 20 years I’ve lived in Eugene, and currently as a 64-year old woman who still rides LTD (wearing a mask, though it’s not required), I feel especially concerned for myself as well as other regular riders who depend on LTD. I’m not only referring to the track and field championships, when the buses might be very crowded and not wearing masks.

Public transportation needs to be in the interest of the public, both local and global. LTD is not addressing some of these basic needs, and so I wanted to speak up.

B. Lynne Schwartz
Eugene

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