

letters

WHAT TO DO WITH THE RG

First, let me say that I grew up in a newspaper-reading family. Or, I should say, a two-paper family — the *Los Angeles Examiner* and the *Hollywood Citizen-News*. And I have maintained my love of papers for the past 86 years (maybe 75 years or so of actual reading). Unfortunately, I can see the finish line ahead unless we take steps to prolong the life of this unreplaceable commodity.

I very much like the suggestion of Peter Laufer (*EW* 11/17) that Gannett Co. donate *The Register-Guard* to the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. It would serve as a nonprofit teaching model as well as a news source for the community. My day does not start without the *RG* opened up in front of me, a cup of coffee on one side and, usually, a cat on the other.

This experience has become less and less fulfilling. To use Laufer's quote, "Just do it, Gannett."

Jane Dods
Eugene

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS FOR GUN SAFETY

Regarding Measure 114 facing legal challenges, The People voted and passed Measure 114. That is how a democracy works. Measure 114 is not about taking away Constitutional rights — it is about gun safety.

Who needs high capacity magazines to hunt legally or protect themselves in a domestic situation? Why are law abiding citizens afraid of background checks or making sure gun purchases are legally valid and why are people against taking gun safety courses?

To paraphrase Shakespeare, "Me-thinks they doth protest too much."

Marion Sproul
Eugene

COME TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW

In response to Jeff Salata's letter "Where Did Eugene Go?" (*EW* 11/23), I'm sorry to say the answer seems to be, Hell.

There is no generational blame for the depreciation of the once charming Eugene. As a third generation Oregonian, I can say it's been in decline for more than 50 years. There seem to be no standards for healthy enforcements so the city functions safely. Policy makers, especially our governor, are complacent and lack the steadfast grit to keep all of Oregon thriving, yet weirdly wonderful like it once was.

Few people show respect anymore, especially college students and often the homeless. Many, not all, homeless people litter, steal and are violent. Many college students also litter, including tossing furniture and garbage to the curb for someone else to clean up, and

drive recklessly — especially on Game Day.

Eugene lacks all kinds of quality leadership. Leadership of our state and city government, our college with a blind eye to how they are impacting the rest of the city, including overpriced tuition and housing that only out of state wealth can afford, self-serving events like The Worlds and student accountability, our city planners making an absolute mess with affordable housing and homelessness, as well as the overpopulation issues creating a driving nightmare.

It's overwhelming to know where to start, but if we are going to restore Eugene we need to rise from these hellish ashes and come together somehow.

Bella James
Eugene

LANE COUNTY SHOULD STEP UP TO HELP THE HOMELESS

I have read that the city should do something about homelessness here in Eugene. But what many don't understand is that Lane County is actually responsible for the welfare of its people. The city is responsible for keeping Eugene safe, clean and livable. At what point do we stop pointing a finger at the city for trying to keep up with the demand because Lane County won't take care of its people.

Lane County heads of departments were presented with many solutions by one neighborhood, the Whiteaker: Send case managers out to those who are being fed in the parks. Sign them up for services right there. Send mental health providers out.

I have one question, with one out of 11 people in Eugene being homeless, what will it take for Lane County to do the right thing?

Dilenia (Dee) Cardona
Eugene

HEALTH CARE IS NOW A RIGHT

Measure 111 has passed and done so by more than 20,000 votes, meaning that the majority of voters are in favor of an amendment to the state Constitution that would require the state to "ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right."

Though we don't intentionally choose to get sick, it would be a great relief to know that there will be affordable medical care available when we need it. Having to deal with the many symptoms that may accompany sickness is enough without having to worry about the bill and the possibility of bankruptcy which it so often brings.

The amendment does not detail how this will be accomplished. Instead it re-

FAMILY SPONSORED OBITUARY

Gary Wayne Brittain

Gary Wayne Brittain of Eugene, Oregon died October 17 at 6:30am, after a year's struggle with re-occurring metastasized cancer. Gary was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon, the oldest of six: Gary, Linda, Lark, Robin Joe, Tamara and Dusty, of Milo and Marie (nee' Shoemaker) Brittain. While felling timber in 1971, a tree smashed off his lower left leg. Thereafter Gary worked to improve his mobility, astonishing others by riding bicycles, dancing, backpacking through wild muskeg swamps. He was apprenticed at diesel truck maintenance and body repair, becoming a gifted master.

After closing his truck shop in Fox, outside Fairbanks, Alaska he traveled with his family to the east coast for several years, where he started guitar and violin lessons. He returned to Alaska to work re-wiring diesel trucks. Gary became devoted to his music. Three years later he returned to Eugene, Oregon and set up a music recording studio in the basement of his house.

Gary built his first cabin when in his teens and in later years completely built and reconstructed a number of houses. While only completing high school, Gary read everything: intelligent, gifted, creative, Gary could solve most problems. He could cook a meal, use a sewing machine, plant a tree, was a devoted fan of Jung, could find an electrical short, and camp well in the complete wilderness.

Gary is survived by his children, Sesha and nephew Jackie J., his 1st wife, Gail S. and 2nd wife, Alice O., siblings Linda B. and Dusty B.



*The world is a lesser place without Gary's generous, creative presence.
Memorial TBA in spring 2023.*

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