

letters

EUGENE SHOULD OBEY THE LAW

I just read a rather lengthy article in the current *Weekly* ("City of Eugene Ignores State Law on Camping," June 15), and I was aghast. Since when does the city of Eugene assume the right to remove the homeless with little or no option with a place to move on? It seems that after the person(s) has been told to leave there may be a deluge of citations due, and if these aren't paid there might be jail time involved.

The homeless have been a special constant that the city has taken the legal out of legality. As a targeted group they are shuffled from place to place with no actual solution in sight. In the big cities the cops would have a "bum's rush" whereby vagrants would be rushed to a different location and thereby have them be somebody else's problem. Now, I ain't no holy, having them trade a sermon for a meal. Now correct if I'm wrong — Jesu Christos did things differently, the least of which his goodness came with no strings attached.

It seems that we treat our neighbors with respect and have the city enforce the law rather than change it to one's convenience.

George G. Brooks
Springfield

EUGENE HAS MADE A CRUEL CHOICE

The city of Eugene's present policy of forbidding homeless camping almost everywhere and forcing campers to constantly move is so cruel that I think anything would be better.

When people say legal homeless camps without a whole lot of expensive supervision and resources would harm their neighborhoods, I would ask, compared to what? To what is already happening that homeowners and business people are screaming about?

Suppose the city simply designated small areas where homeless people could legally camp, with just a portapotty and a large trash can provided, what would happen? Would it be better or worse than what we've got now, more or less harmful to the homeless and housed? We have to make choices, and we have to make them now, before it gets cold again.

Lynn Porter
Homeless Action
Eugene

DON'T JOIN IN THE DECEITFUL RECALL

As a proud former labor representative for SEIU Local 503 and the Oregon Nurses Association, I know how impor-

tant it is for Oregon workers to have a champion in the Legislature. State Rep. Paul Holvey is one of those champions. As chair of the House Business and Labor he has been a leader in making Oregon one of the most progressive states when it comes to worker protections.

I met Holvey when he was advocating for workers as a union representative with the Pacific Northwest Carpenters. His leadership is no surprise, as Holvey has been a steadfast supporter of working people his entire career.

Just one example: In 2019, Holvey took the lead on passing landmark legislation that established access to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for workers to care for a child after birth, or to care for a family member or themselves when experiencing a serious health condition. Why? Because you should never have to choose between caring for your family and keeping your job.

In 2016, Holvey was the chief architect of legislation that raised the minimum wage across the state.

The idea that Holvey doesn't stand up for working people is ridiculous, as is the misleading recall effort against him. We are lucky to have such a strong labor advocate representing House District 8, and I encourage you to join me in refus-

ing to sign the deceitful recall petition.
Maureen Smith
Eugene

RAPE AND CORRUPTION ARE NOT THE SAME THING

In the June 15 *Weekly*, the final entry in Slant laments the fact that recent events demonstrate that Oregon's leaders are not living up to the state's reputation for "clean" politics. The evidence given? Former Gov. John Kitzhaber's resignation on charges of ethics violations, former Secretary of State Shemia Fagan's resignation for similar reasons, and finally former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's years-long rape of a 14-year-old girl.

It shouldn't be too difficult to understand that the final case is nothing like the former two, and infinitely worse. That *EW* blithely equated the three is shocking, indicating, at best, highly lazy thinking. Yes, ethics violations are troubling and deserve everybody's attention, but to compare them with raping children is offensive to victims of sexual violence and degrades our already damaged political discourse. Please, do better.

Luke Habberstad
Eugene



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