

letters

THANKS, BUTTS...

Thanks for running our “Butts and EW” letter (6/27). You missed the mark in Slant, however.

Tobacco kills people! That’s different from “ads for political candidates we didn’t endorse.” Remember, ads showing dying smokers? We and the surgeon general have been battling tobacco since the 1960s! The current surgeon general just announced placing firearms under the same label (public health crisis) as tobacco. It’s just like second-hand smoke killing innocent people. More than “feelings about,” it’s life or death. Where lies EW’s moral compass? Can we expect ads from the NRA because it “pays the bills?”

Jan Walker, Bill Winkley,
Elaine Holcomb and Linda Gordon
Eugene

CROSS TALK IS GOOD

Do city departments talk to each other? Apparently not. Consider two current actions! The restoration of the original quality of the Amazon Creek vs. approval of 24 home sites in the headwaters of the same!

J.W. Cox
Eugene

A LOSS OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSION

On Wednesday, I spent 10 hours at Riverbend ER with my husband. He has cancer, was hurting, weak from vomiting and he needed a bed. For nine hours, there were no beds because ambulances arrived throughout the day. He lay on a double seat with his knees tucked up and his head on the metal armrest. No sick person deserves that, and neither does the deeply dedicated ER staff who did everything in their power to provide appropriate care. The system has lost its way. PeaceHealth, and local and state officials who allowed University District ER to close, made decisions that have a human cost.

Before UD closed, Riverbend ER treated about 150 patients a day. The count since has been up to 269. McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center helps,

but its ER can’t take as many ambulances, so immuno-compromised folks like my husband wait hours in the Riverbend ER lobby alongside contagious people. Also, University District had 12 locked rooms for patients in mental health crises; Riverbend has just two.

Sadly, it seems PeaceHealth has lost sight of its stated Christian mission. ER staff, their patients, and the community are hurting because of that. We need to find a way to do better and to support our ER staff until remedies are found.

Debra Levinson
Eugene

COMPLAINTS NOW BEING HEARD

To Penelope Pascal (EW letters, 6/27): We’re having the same disturbance of the peace on the Beltline from Royal Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard. Every night from 9 pm to 2 am, some jerk trucker has to slow his truck for the Roosevelt light by blasting out his jake brakes! It reverberates for a half-mile radius!

The Department of Transportation red tape to get a prohibition sign put up is laughable. I hope someone in traffic control reads our complaints and at least pulls these guys over and gives them a warning.

If I could see at those hours of the night, I’d get the company names of the trucks and call their bosses!

Annie Kayner
Eugene

AN INHUMANE DECISION

On June 28, the Supreme Court overturned the decision of *Martin v. Grants Pass*, which ruled that if a person has nowhere to sleep, then they should be allowed to sleep on public property without penalty. In doing this, the court determined that the constitutional edict against “cruel and unusual punishment” is limited to how governments treat criminals under their supervision.

Forced sleep deprivation is declared to be an inhumane torture by the U.N. and many human rights organization. This decision has made this form of

torture unacceptable for criminals, but completely enforceable by police and others to non-convicted citizens of our country and state. People most desperate to survive are punished for not being lucky enough to retain housing or to win the lottery of public housing. Why should we continue to give money to police departments to criminalize the poor instead of spending that money providing public trash receptacles, bathrooms, camp sites and housing?

When we fail to grant our citizens a place to sleep without punishment, we create an even worse mental health crisis that makes the whole city feel unsafe. When we lock public bathrooms, we see more feces in public. When we do not provide adequate public disposal, then our whole city looks like a dump. Forcing camps to move from public land by ticketing or arresting doesn’t make poverty disappear, it makes it move to business and residential areas. Poverty must be solved, not criminalized or else we all reap the consequences.

Steve Kimes, pastor,
Eugene Mennonite Church
Eugene

BIDEN MUST GO

Soberly and with sadness, I must suggest that President Joe Biden step down and relinquish the presidency to Kamala Harris as soon as possible in order to allow her to be seen as president as long as possible before the election. Then the search for the vice president should be the forum for assessing the greatest support for the ticket from Democrats and the general public. This will leave a destabilized Trump election process, for he has the same age problem and has not yet formed an approach to dealing with the new Democrat ticket. The hardest thing to do is to start over, but that is a measure of what you are.

Leo Rivers
Cottage Grove

BIDEN WAS “GISHED”

I was really disheartened after the June 27 presidential debate. This morning I discovered what happened that

made President Joe Biden’s performance so uneven. He was taken in by the Gish Gallop rhetorical technique. This technique involves overwhelming your debate opponent with multiple often unrelated arguments one after another, so the opponent has to try and respond to each unrelated argument in their timed response. This can make them seem disjointed as they try to jump from one argument/topic to another quickly.

What was in evidence last night was a new “spin” on the “Gish.” Instead of presenting accurate and truthful points, one of the debaters presents multiple unrelated lies about themselves and their accomplishments in quick succession. Their opponent is then forced to try to show that each lie is in fact a lie, jumping from one lie to the next in a rushed and often disjointed sounding response.

The “Gish Gallop” is often used to disguise one debater’s lack of actual policy details or plans on how to solve current or future problems since they focus on false details of their past accomplishments. This new “Gish Technique” requires a seasoned con man to really pull it off.

Hal Heustis
Eugene

NOW WHAT FOR HOMELESS?

What do we do, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed cities to harass the homeless to their little heart’s content?

We need to get political. The last time the homeless camping issue came up on the Eugene City Council, it voted 5-3 for an ordinance to make it easier to impound homeless RVs.

The five were Randy Groves, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Emily Semple and Matt Keating. These are our enemies. The three who voted no were Alan Zelinka, Lyndsie Leech and Jenifer Yeh. These are our friends.

Groves is the leader of the council’s conservative faction. The ordinance was his idea. He should never have been re-elected, but being a councilor is a heavy job that doesn’t pay enough to live on, so no working-class people were willing to