

letters

A Round of Applause, Please

I recently attended a few concerts at the Oregon Bach Festival where musicians came from around the world to our little city in the middle of Oregon and created incredible music for the people attending to enjoy.

And I was appalled by the behavior of some audience members when the music ended. In nearly every concert I attended, there were people who would fly up the aisle directly after the show, rather than stay and give applause.

Applause is how you show gratitude to a performer. It is how you say “thank you for the countless hours of hard work you put into studying your craft, for continuing to create despite all the obstacles and for coming here and spending the last couple of hours playing for us all.”

It takes a mere few minutes, it costs you nothing, and it’s largely the thing driving the performers to perform! Yes, they get paid, but there are easier ways to earn a living. They just gave their all to you for the last couple of hours, and the least you can do is show a little gratitude for a few minutes and stay and give applause.

Elizabeth Bookey
Eugene

Classical Tanglements

There are indeed “many more reasons” for Peter Van de Graff’s departure from KWAX, such as essentially being forced out by the UO administration. Do some digging.

Mike Kopf
Eugene

When Rubber Meets Glass

I bike more than I drive, and I am grateful to live in a city that supports cycling with bicycle paths and, now, protected bike lanes with really cool automatic lights. The bummer is that I can’t get anywhere without having to dodge broken glass. It’s maddening.

It’s on the river path. It’s in the bike lanes. It’s on the sidewalks. Seldom is there a ride where I don’t encounter a tire-popping mess. There are a couple of

things I can do: report it to public works and bring a broom with a dustpan to clean it up myself. I’m open to ideas as to how to address this nuisance.

Tracy Weeks
Eugene

Slant This

You say “Slant,” I say “Askew.” This section of your paper appears to be the place reasoned thought often goes to die and emotional rant rears its ugly mug.

Case in point is last week’s blurb where one of your male writers tells every other man in the country “to get over yourselves” regarding the apparent resistance in this country to the idea of two women on the Democratic presidential ticket. When are we gonna learn ignorance is an equal opportunity employer. A female relative once told me she could never vote for a female politician.

I won’t bore you with her contorted reasoning. More recently two women conveyed to me that from their interpretation of the Bible they could not vote for a woman to apparently be a leader of anything. Doubt they are the sole representatives of that antiquated thought process. I wonder if this issue might have been covered by one of your female writers.

Dan Dizney
Eugene

EDITOR’S NOTE: Not to point out the obvious, but it’s called Slant because opinions are slanted ... “Tell all the truth but tell it slant.”

It Pays to be Nice

My partner was hosting a couple from another state and we took them up the McKenzie Highway in order to see the amazing job McKenzie Trust and others have done to restore wildlife habitat at Finn Rock. My partner was driving.

We stopped at a little store on the way and parked. A driver pulled in next to us and as I got out, he said something like “you were going so slow, you could have pulled off and let the 30 cars behind you pass.” I got the message that he was angry and so against my first impulse, I apologized. Over and over. He said “well, it’s rude, you should let people by.”

I apologized again and went into the store. When I returned, he rolled down his window and said he was sorry for the

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