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OPINION

letters

Timing Not Coincidental

I just finished Rene Gonzalez's Viewpoint (*EW*, 1/30) where he relates multiple instances of racist harassment at work just a day after Donald Trump took office. As he rightly observes, the timing was not coincidental. Oftentimes, such hate lives in the shadows. However, Trump and the make America hate again movement has methodically erected a permission structure where people feel emboldened to display it in public.

The first step in addressing such harassment is to call it out. That takes both conviction and courage. So thank you, Mr. Gonzalez. It's folks like you that lift our community up by making us aware. Please know, the vast majority of Eugeneans support you.

Howard Newman
Eugene

A Community Forum from HCAO

Have you had or do you know someone experiencing excessive delays in obtaining doctors' appointments, surgical procedures or even treatment at the emergency room?

Would you like to find out what actions have been taken, are being taken, and possible future actions to increase our access to quality healthcare?

Well, there is a group of community volunteers that have organized the second city wide healthcare forum to offer the public the opportunity to engage in this issue. It will be March 1, 2 pm to 4 pm at the Willamette Christian Center, 2400 West 18th Avenue. Plus, the NAACP is providing a Healthcare Fair from 11 am to 2 pm.

Panelists include our Lane County Health and Human Services director, a state senator, our fire chief, one of our hospital staff nurses, one of our representatives, a member of the Universal Health Plan Governance Board and a president of a health care rights organization.

Lane County offers one of the most beautiful areas in the country from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, with rivers supplying us with drinking water and fishing holes, plus hiking trails, skiing areas as well as county, state and city parks. We have made a great investment to make it a great place to live. It takes a healthy community to keep it vibrant. We need public healthcare and better access to quality healthcare, to maintain the investment we have made and protect the natural resources we have been given.

A healthy community is a productive community.

Lou Sinniger
Health Care for All Oregon Lane County Chapter,
Elmira

Trinity Still Serves

While some people remain upset about the closure of Trinity United Methodist Church and the congregation losing their place of worship (*EW*, 11/14/2024), I want to highlight the continued and new uses of the building that bring me joy. First, I briefly offer my opinion that the largest factor was their declining membership and lack of members (not just folks who attended or donated money) volunteering to fill the minimum organizational structure required by the UMC. Many members had volunteered for decades in many positions and were no longer able or willing.

Trinity is still very active in filling the needs of our community:

Egan Warming Centers operates at Trinity. The recently remodeled kitchen allows for the cooking of food and the ability to serve dinner and breakfast to the clients. Prior to the remodel, the stove and ovens couldn't even be used for heating foods and the industrial dishwasher had become unusable.

Friends in Service to Humanity (FISH) continues to operate, providing food boxes and supplies to needy families. A preschool continues to use classrooms and the playground. An acupuncturist, artist and personal trainer continue to rent space. The Lavender Network, serving the LGBTQ+ community, recently started using the building.

So you see, the Trinity building continues to serve the community and beyond.

Michael Peterson
Eugene

Make Eugene Breathable

I agree with Randi Briscoe's letter in Jan. 30 *Weekly* ("Choking on Emissions").

We are killing ourselves slowly or maybe not slowly. I am sitting in my living room at six in the morning and I can smell fumes. Automobiles fill the air with CO_2. My last panel showed that my CO_2 is high.

I'm not near a freeway, although they're all over the place now, and I actually have a dwelling to hopefully protect me. There is air pollution from the trains and all the airplanes that are almost continuously flying over our heads now. I remember when the planes took off and landed with a circuitous route which avoided the city. Now it goes directly over my head.

Automobile emission control is needed. California instituted it over 20 years ago. People are also burning wood both for warmth and recreation in the city — my throat gets clogged by the smoke. We actually have many devices that could help with these problems like heat pumps which could be subsidized by grants. Change the airplane paths. Think about the poor little babies that are being born into this dangerous soup. Let's make Eugene a city we can breathe in and be healthy!

Jean Denis
Eugene

Think Creatively

I am not a native Oregonian, but I chose Eugene as my home, and it has been a love story ever since. I like to think of myself as Eugene's number one fan, and for good reason. This city reflects the values I hold dear: beautiful parks, an amazing library and a strong investment in arts and culture. These are the very things that make Eugene special, not just for me, but for so many who live here.

I know our city is facing tough budget decisions, and I urge our leaders to listen to the voices of those advocating for the services that make Eugene a place worth calling home. I've seen firsthand how deeply these services matter. As a volunteer at the Eugene Public Library, I watched people from all walks of life find safety, knowledge and community within its walls — especially young people. One of my favorite moments was always seeing children take just a few steps inside before breaking into a run toward the children's section. That kind of joy, that sense of belonging, is priceless.

Eugene is a city that prides itself on creativity, and I encourage our leaders to bring that same spirit to the budget process. I know they are working hard to minimize cuts, but I urge them to support the full spectrum of services that make our community strong. These investments aren't just numbers on a budget — they are the heartbeat of our city.

Kelly Johnson
Eugene

Include Me Out

Please tell me the name of Rene Gonzalez's coffee shop so I can avoid it at all costs (*EW*, 1/30). Not because I would feel intimidated by the lowlifes who apparently infest it, but because his bosses are obviously too timid to step forward in his defense and tell the sleazeballs something along the lines of "stop abusing my barista, asshole, or get the fuck out." Until that's accomplished they can, in the immortal words of Sam Goldwyn, include me out.

Mike Kopf
Eugene

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