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OPINION

Letters

Coping in These Dark Times in Letters to the Editor

Define Satire

I'm sure I'm not the only reader who is pleased to see "This Modern World" return as a regular feature of the Weekly, but I'm a little confused.

Didn't it used to be satire?

Leo Muzzy
Eugene

How To Cope

Volunteering as an activist in the Democratic Party of Lane County (DPLC.org), and writing a Substack. Both keep me centered. I'm doing what I can to keep the world from sinking, or at least to slow its slide (EW Slant, 6/19, What are you doing to stay calm?).

Local activism is important. Some of the latest school board elections in Cottage Grove have been decided by fewer than 10 votes. In Florence, the school board removed a book about problems faced by an isolated child from school libraries. Lane County had very low voter turnout in the May election, and talking to people does make a difference, ultimately to those subject to one or another official decision.

I learned long ago that being in service on a voluntary basis keeps me from running circles in my mind. Running circles doesn't help me or anyone else. Doing well by doing good is where it's at!

Larry Koenigsberg
Eugene

Editor's note: Eugene Weekly asked in a recent EW Extra Newsletter for readers to tell us how they are coping in these turbulent times. Thank you for these replies!

Blackberry Coping

For some of us the Friends of Buford Park's Native Plant Nursery provides that needed calm — weeding, seed harvesting, in community or solo in every season, and under every kind of sky. The Friends can also use volunteer help with trails — hacking at blackberries can be equally therapeutic.

Maradee Girt
Board of Directors
Friends of Buford Park

Keeping the Spirits Up When Times Are Horrific

This goes beyond coping into the realm of staying elevated:

Breathe deeply and slowly. Let the belly expand on the inhale and contract on the exhale. Feel the expansion extend into infinity, and on the contraction, bring the cosmos back into yourself. Remember at this time, or separately, all you have reason to be grateful for. Combine these two things: the expanded state and remembering what you have. Do you have sufficient funds to give a bit to a cause you care for that's hurting? Do it. Do you have a skill you can put to use for the greater good? Do it. You get the idea.

I've been doing this sort of practice for about 40 years. Didn't start it with the idea

it'd be useful in a time as horrific as this time is. But it helps. A lot.

And when all else fails, I remind myself of the poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ozymandias."

*"I met a traveler from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive (stamped on these lifeless things),
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings;
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."*

I especially focus on the words on the pedestal. All things end, and 79-year-old males of bloated proportions are likely to end sooner rather than later, all without human intervention. Even the ones who boast they can commit murder on 5th Avenue with impunity.

Blessings,

Siri Kirpal Kaur Khalsa
Eugene

Oregon Has a Chance

If the Big Beautiful Bill passes, millions of poor or disabled people will lose access to health care through Medicaid. Yes, Kristi Noem, we know we are all going to die ...

Some of us are not only troubled by this possibility, we also want to get rid of the current complicated for-profit health insurance system, which makes money for investors by denying care to those with insurance. A single-payer system that covers everyone with no copays or premiums, funded by tax dollars. Numerous studies have shown that your tax cost would be considerably less than what you pay now.

Clearly, this is not going to happen at the national level, so long as the Republicans control Congress and most Democrats are showing little spine. But we do have a chance here in Oregon. The Universal Health Plan Governance Board is working on a plan. Check out HCAO.com.

Jo Alexander
Corvallis

More Help for the Homeless, Please

The agencies that help the homeless in Eugene should investigate the empty city lots and check out the tiny homes in Amazon, ranging in price from \$5,000 to \$10,000. If we can spend \$34 million for a bus terminal on River Road that is never used and the extra buses that have maybe one or two riders during the day, we should be able to find the money to invest in helping people who are sleeping on our streets. Perhaps the mayor and City Council can step up and investigate the possibility of really helping these people and not just talking about it and doing little or nothing.

Marlene Pearson
Eugene

Show Compassion for the Homeless

Congratulations Black Thistle Street Aid on five years running. Thank you for all

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