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PETER LAUFER
Photo by Eve Weston

who to blame

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OPINION

Letters

From Coping to
Amigo the Devil

Coping Today

Spending time in the forest helps me with stress and keeps life in perspective. Being mindful. Just listening, watching, smelling, just being. Nature is therapy.
Sue Bitterling
Eugene

See the
Portland Frog

The generals and admirals feel humiliated, the soldiers aren't getting paid and all the armed forces are simmering with righteous anger.

But do we really want a military coup?

I for one would rather look to the Portland Frog for redress.
Bill Smee
Eugene

Is There a
Permit for This?

Why did the organizers of the Oct. 18 march/demonstration decide not to apply for a permit?

When as many as 20,000 people (including children and vulnerable adults) will be out in the street, it seems dangerous and provocative to have

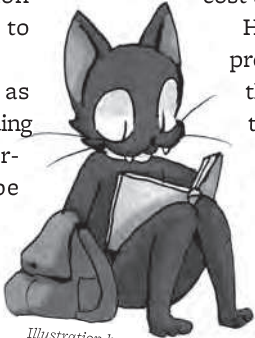


Illustration by
Jade Wilkerson

made this decision.
I was looking forward to being there with my granddaughter, but not now.

Susan Matthews
Eugene

Editor's Note: We reached out to rally organizers, who tell us they are building a social movement based on civil resistance, which by definition involves noninstitutional actions.

Special Thanks to EW

In an EW survey a while ago, I mentioned that I missed "Katewy Cube," and what do I find this week but Jade Wilkerson's "Break Time" — a great comic in a similar vein! Thank you, Jade and EW!

Mark Zorn
Eugene

Editor's Note: We don't know what "Katewy Cube" is — we used to run "Something Eug" by Dan Pegoda — but agree Jade is great!

Swallowed Up by Big
Health Care

After reading current magazines like *The Economist* and medical research journals, I must commend the grassroots organization Healthcare for All Oregon (HCAO) for taking on the health care challenges of accessibility, cost and quality care.

HCAO is working to provide Oregonians with the skills and resources to make informed decisions about their health and well-being by creating a single payer system. Innovation and improvement, with an emphasis

on preventive care and maintenance of good health, are needed for the current health crisis, which often leaves many people uninsured or under-insured and having to use expensive reactive care (ER, Urgent Care).

Unfortunately, "equity companies" often provide funds to buy out local health clinics and hospitals so for-profit corporations (insurance companies) dictate or restrict the health care costs and performance of care without the input of doctors, nurses and other care providers. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed by the governance board of HCAO as they draft the new health care system.

At this time rural clinics are in danger of closing, medical research funds are being halted, and insurance premiums and drug prices are going up drastically. We need to avoid the staggering economic burden of health care by creating a better system that works for everyone.

Janet Brougher
Eugene

There is Some
Overlap

Thank you, conservative Jerry Ritter (EW Letters, 10/9), for listing some of the right's misconstrued beliefs about liberals.

You're right, DJT is such an inept, lying, scammer, he makes Bush II look like a boy scout. CAHOOTS is necessary. The police department is not equipped to be street psychologists. Enforcement of the immigration laws to deport criminals

instead of harassing and traumatizing citizens is what we all want. Law enforcement is funded as per the needs of each city. No one wants defunding.

People don't "choose" their sexual identity. That's biology, and no one is forcing any changes. Just like no one is being forced to abort a pregnancy.

You know where we'd be without DEI? Medieval England? Saudi Arabia?

Twenty million dollars on a city hall? Maybe prudence is in order.

I'm glad you agree on surveillance overreach. As you being a person who believes in small government, that's a positive indication that you are maybe inclined to work with those of us that believe society is a "village" and not an "ism" ruled by corporations or an elite monied class from the top down.

Don't look up.
Annie Kayner
Eugene

What's Up, EW?

Wow. One of the best music shows to hit McDonald Theatre this year, and the *Weekly* doesn't have a story, a blurb — hell, not even an advertisement for it? Amigo the Devil and Lucero definitely deserve better than that!

John Arredondo
Eugene

Editor's Note: We try to get it all in (and all events are in our free *What's Happening* calendar). We try to prioritize local events and events folks may not know about. Advertising is always an available option for anyone looking to promote their events.

Local & Vocal

Viewpoint by Doyle Srader

DELICIOUS

Some points about
the anti-Trump
protests

This morning I was looking at the "Bibles for Haiti" meme. It's the one where the pudgy white man is handing a Bible to an underwhelmed Black woman, and the caption reads, "Thank you, this looks delicious." And I think it makes a solid point.

I'm a lifelong Baptist, a Sunday school teacher, and I work for a Christian employer, so I've been in a position from time to time to see some truly clumsy and misguided behavior by my Christian sisters and brothers. I fully agree that it's indefensible to proselytize people whose basic needs are not getting met: It's cruel, and it's an utter waste of time.

And yes, yet again, I am making a point

about the anti-Trump protests.

There are a lot of frustrated residents of Eugene who channel their discontent into mocking and insulting our unhoused people. They especially love to put on their sarcastic faces and say "Ooooo, I'm just one paycheck away! I'm just one paycheck away!" because obviously an idea stops being true if you make fun of it.

Lately, I've shifted my response to something like this: "Look, the unhoused person you're ranting about was once someone's young daughter or son, squirmly and playful and full of potential. Put them next to you at that age and I bet no one could tell the difference. But then, parts of their life went catastrophically wrong, and yours did not. It's possible some of it resulted from their decisions, and are you going to tell me you didn't make stupid decisions whose consequences you escaped by pure dumb luck?"

I suspect the average *Weekly* reader finds some merit in that comparison, so here's why I actually didn't change the subject: the exact same thing is true about your political opponents.

Nobody woke up one morning and said, "Because I am fundamentally worthless and trashy, I will now wander nice people's neighborhoods throwing feces and used needles around like the world's worst Mardi Gras float!"

Similarly, no one woke up one morning and said, "Because I glory in raw evil, I will now embrace every wrong idea in the universe until a crowd screams at me that I am evil and wrong, and then I'll pop like a soap bubble so they can high five each other."

Neither of those things has ever happened, and yet I keep running into Eugeneans whose assumptions about their neighbors don't seem to run any deeper than that.

Donald Trump won in 2016 and 2024 because he spoke for people who felt forgotten and abandoned. Very many people who felt that way have ragged tears in the fabric of their well-being, and until those are rewoven, all the posters and chants at the protests amount to preaching to people who don't have food, or health care, or dignity, or hope. They're all just

delicious Bibles.

You can repackage any rationalization you want about who you have to confront and why, or what kind of slogan you're absolutely sure will work this time, or next time at the latest. You can slam your slogans in their faces, and when they don't surrender and change their voter registration, you can commiserate with everybody else at the protest about how stupid they are. You can repeat it again and again, and the spiral we're stuck in can go round and round again and again, and the results of the 2016 and 2024 elections can reoccur in 2028 and beyond.

Or you can step back from the confrontation, think hard about unmet needs, and lead with care before you get to advocacy.

I really do want to see the fever of Trumpism break, but it's a problem with two sides: the supporters and the opponents. And the next time you drive by a protest, or show up to one yourself, and the signs are raised and the chants begin, I want you to think at least once, "Ahhh, these Bibles are delicious."

Doyle Srader lives in Eugene.