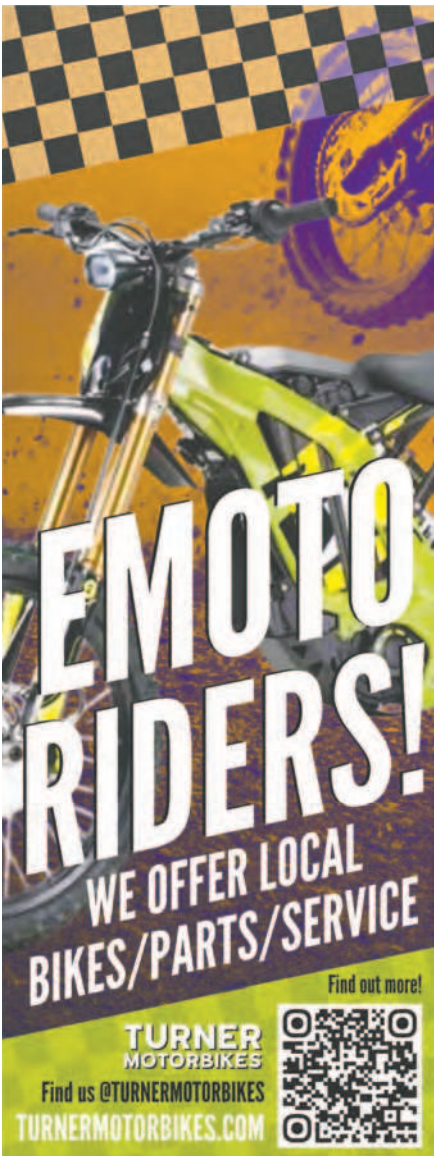




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OPINION

letters

FROM FLOCK TO THE YMCA

Symbolism over Safety

Eugene's City Council just voted to "pause" its use of Flock license plate cameras — right as multiple hits from those cameras helped bust a burglary ring targeting Asian American families. You can't script timing that bad.

Opponents say these cameras will track trans people. That's simply not true. Flock cameras don't track individuals. They don't use facial recognition. They capture license plates tied to vehicles involved in crimes. That's it.

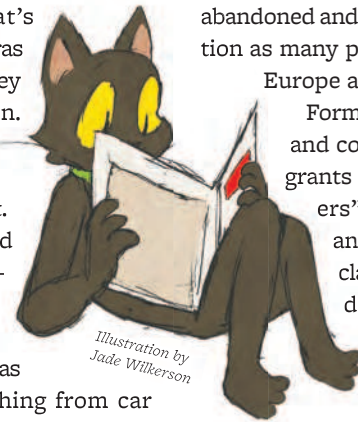
I'm gay. I live here. And I'm tired of seeing marginalized identities used to shut down tools that actually help protect us. These cameras have helped solve everything from car thefts to homicides. That's not theoretical. That's documented.

Meanwhile, police staffing is low and public trust is shaky. But instead of investing in tools that work, the council chose symbolism over safety. Again.

If this is what "progressive" public safety looks like, it's not working. Not for the people actually getting hit.

I hope City Manager Sarah Medary and Police Chief Chris Skinner push back. I hope the council starts listening to residents who want real accountability — not just optics. And I hope *Eugene Weekly* stays on this — not just to critique the tech, but to track the consequences of losing it.

Curtis Taylor
Eugene



Common Sense from Srader

Doyle Srader uses common sense, suggesting to "step back from confrontation, think about unmet needs (*EW*, 10/16)." As studies have revealed, 56 percent of college graduates backed Kamala Harris last year. But among non-college educated voters, her support was just 45 percent.

Similarly, among those making more than \$100,000 a year, she won 51 percent to Donald Trump's 47 percent while losing those earning less than \$100,000 by the same margin. There may be two Americas, one with power and privilege, another struggling to survive.

Trump during the campaign mentioned that beautiful word: groceries. He doesn't come up with solutions for food prices, education or health care — on the contrary. But he offered recognition to those who felt abandoned and illusory targets for retribution as many populist politicians have in Europe and elsewhere.

Formerly, it was Jews, Gypsies and communists. Now it's immigrants (i.e., "criminal drug dealers") blamed for the misery and lack of access to middle class privilege. Srader's piece doesn't address the deception, the lying and the obfuscation to achieve success at the expense of the gullible voter who feels unseen. Yes, it's about the Dems dropping the ball. It's also about false promises, smoke and mirrors, channeling hate and racism and unparalleled naivety in the presence of a con man who ironically sells "delicious Bibles."

maRco Elliott
Eugene

A Lefty and Proud

Jerry Ritter likes to associate people on the left in one lump sum, one cut from whole cloth. I beg to differ (*EW* letters, 10/9).

Although "the left" overwhelmingly despises Donald Trump (who doesn't, aside from MAGA?) independents are alienated

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

EFFECT AND CAUSE

1. DEMOCRAT CITIES ARE WAR-RAVAGED HELLHOLES OVERRUN BY VIOLENT, LAWLESS THUGS! I SAW IT ON THE TALKING PICTURE BOX ON MY WALL!

2. THEREFORE WE MUST KIDNAP RANDOM PEOPLE OFF THE STREET, SHOOT PEPPER BALLS AT PRIESTS, TEAR GAS ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOODS! IT'S CALLED LAW AND ORDER, MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?

3. BIG GOVERNMENT IS A GIANT, DYSFUNCTIONAL MESS CONTROLLED BY IDEOLOGICAL EXTREMISTS! THEY WANT TO MAKE LIFE WORSE FOR EVERYONE!

4. AS DIRECTOR OF O.M.B., I INTEND TO DISMANTLE THE GOVERNMENT AND FIRE EVERYONE WHO KNOWS HOW ANYTHING WORKS! IF YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME BEFORE--YOU WILL NOW!

5. YOU CAN'T TRUST THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM! THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US ALL! DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH, SHEEPLE!

6. I WILL DEFUND CANCER RESEARCH, DECIMATE THE C.D.C., AND DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO RESTRICT VACCINES! WE'LL BUILD UP HERD IMMUNITY THE NATURAL WAY--BY CULLING THE WEAK AND SICK!

7. THE ECONOMY IS A DISASTER! GROCERIES, A VERY OLD FASHIONED WORD, COST TOO MANY PIECES OF MONEY! ONLY TRUMP CAN GOOD THINGS MAKE HAPPEN!

8. TO ADDRESS THIS CRISIS, I WILL RANDOMLY IMPOSE AND WITHDRAW TARIFFS DEPENDING ON MY MOOD! ALSO, I'M DEPORTING ALL THE FARMWORKERS. IF A PROBLEM DOESN'T EXIST--YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT THERE AND CREATE IT!

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