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who to blame

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OPINION

letters

DRAMA FROM EWEB, LCC AND AN UNWANTED COUNTY SERMON

Sermon on the County, Loveall Style

The Jan. 5 “State of the County” address, organized and led by outgoing Lane County Commission Board Chair David Loveall, is recorded on a video that all Lane County citizens should watch to see the blatant erosion of the separation of church and state in a public meeting. Find it on YouTube at [YouTube.com/watch?v=1PrO_JPIPAo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PrO_JPIPAo).

In his opening remarks, Loveall alludes to “the higher power who appointed us” rather than recognizing Lane County residents who voted for the commissioners.

After watching and listening to Loveall’s guest, Chris Cirullo, give his lengthy sermon

on the county exhorting God to “come and heal Lane County,” along with a pastor at New Hope Christian College, Guy Higashi, sharing his internal compass as Jesus and the Kingdom of God (“Bow your heads and pray with me”), I thought I was viewing an evangelical religious service rather than a Lane County government event.

Put in perspective: another example of Loveall’s Trumpian attitude that he so brashly displayed in a letter to Lane County administrator Steve Mokrohisky, “Commissioners can do whatever they want and there’s nothing anyone can do about it.”

However, what those of us who believe in the separation of church and state *can* do is vote Loveall out of office in November. Then my prayers will be answered.

Karen Myers
 Eugene

State of the County, Not Church of the County

Lane County residents are free to practice any religion they choose. They should also be free from their government blatantly proselytizing to them from the podium of

the county building. In his final act as chair, Commissioner David Loveall made clear his perpetual disregard for the separation of church and state.

Watch the video and see that I am not exaggerating in the slightest. If you think the government’s role is to uplift one faith and explicitly state that all other faiths are lesser, you should not be in charge of our tax dollars.

I choose to pray to the same deity that Loveall does. Normal people can do this without demanding that the government promote that deity, even after being warned that it makes others in the county uncomfortable. Honestly, using your official position to knowingly create a hostile climate for others is what a weak person does. This will be worth remembering in November. Until such time, I thank the Lane County board for serving the whole public.

Thomas Hiura
 Eugene

Threats to Dance at LCC

Dance programs are rarely eliminated with one decisive vote. More often, they are quietly starved until they can no longer survive. To endure, dance educators must constantly advocate — for funding, for resources, and too often for legitimacy itself. Now retired, I write after nearly two decades as the full-time dance faculty member at Lane Community College.

Dance has long been treated as a lesser art form: Dismissed as entertainment rather than art, sexualized rather than respected and labeled extracurricular rather than essential. Funding follows a familiar hierarchy — other arts are supported first, and dance is left with what remains.

Quietly and steadily, beneath LCC’s more visible budget and union challenges, the dance program is being dismantled. There has been no announcement that it is being “cut.” Instead, there are incremental reductions, diminished support and detrimental administrative decisions.

This erosion is especially alarming because Lane’s two-year dance program is the only one of its kind in Oregon. It has served generations of students — many of whom transfer, pursue professional careers, or remain deeply connected to the arts. Many in our community have taken classes, attended performances in

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

AN EMERGENCY MEETING IN THE OVAL OFFICE...

CAN WE GET SOME MORE GOLD STUFF ON THE WALLS? THERE ARE STILL A FEW BLANK SPOTS!

ABSOLUTELY, SIR! BUT WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE WOMAN WHO WAS KILLED BY ICE!

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS VIDEO THAT THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WATCH THE BRAVE OFFICER MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN DANGER, IF SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT HAD HAPPENED!

IF YOU SAY SO! I'LL POST SOMETHING ON TRUTH SOCIAL!

NO NEED, SIR, I'VE ALREADY DONE IT FOR YOU.

HOWDY, PARTNERS! IT'S ME-- COWGIRL KRISTI! THAT LADY IN THE CAR WAS A NO-GOOD, LOW-DOWN DOMESTIC TERRORIST! SHE DESERVED TO BE PUMPED FULL OF LEAD!

JUST LIKE ALL THE STUPID HIPPIES WHO MADE FUN OF ME IN HIGH SCHOOL!

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO AFTER A TRAGEDY LIKE THIS--IMMEDIATELY START SMEARING THE VICTIM!

ALREADY ON IT! SHE WAS NO ANGEL! SHE HAD PRONOUNS IN HER BIO!

MY TEAM IS WORKING ON SOME SICK MEMES, MR. PRESIDENT!

WHAT WAS THIS RADICAL LEFT PAID AGITATOR'S NAME, ANYWAY?

RENEE GOOD, SIR. ICE HAS KILLED GOOD.

HEH HEH, THEY SURE HAVE!

NOW GET OUT THERE AND HARASS SOME PRESCHOOLS!

YES SIR!

MEANWHILE ON CAPITOL HILL...

HOW'S THIS: TRUMP SHOULD STOP KILLING CITIZENS--AND START "KILLING IT" ON AFFORDABILITY!

I'LL RUN IT BY THE FOCUS GROUP IMMEDIATELY!

NEXT: WHO THE ABSOLUTE HELL KNOWS ANYMORE.

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