



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our fair 'City'

I respectfully disagree with Dina Wills who asks The Register-Guard to suspend the comic strip "Prickly City" until after the election (Letters, Sept. 9). Clearly Wills is not a regular reader of Scott Stantis's strip. Currently Stantis is gently making fun of a supposedly "sleepy" Joe Biden.

On the other hand, he has shown contempt for Donald Trump in numerous strips. In an interview with Chicago Tribune reporter Michael Miner, Stantis said that this moment in time "scares the hell out of me."

He does not support Trump personally or via his comic strip. Does that sound like someone who is "repeating every lie that President Trump tells ..."? Stantis's character Carmen is a sensible young girl of color and a feisty conservative.

Winslow, a coyote pup, is often drawn as a hapless liberal. Still these two are best friends. I find this refreshing. During Trump's time in office, Carmen and Winslow have more often been in sync than not.

Most of the time, I support Winslow's point of view and have written Stantis to try to set him straight! He actually answers emails. This is a reasonable man and an excellent cartoonist. Please continue running this strip.

Jeanne Armstrong, Eugene

Time to pay the piper

Indeed, it is well past time to get serious about wildfires. For over 100 years, wildfires have been extinguished as soon as possible, leaving behind brush to build up fuel for future fires. The only value seen in the forest was the lumber that trees provide. Wildlife that depends on fire all suffer from the war on wildfire.

Even now, the timber industry insists on going forward with the Pedal Power sale, even as the Bureau of Land Management admits it will increase the fire threat in Thurston Hills, where residents are under Go Now! wildfire evacuation orders.

It's time to pay the piper. Since humans interrupted the role that natural fire plays in making forests healthy, we need to take responsibility for re-introducing fire in the forest. Yes, prescribed fire is expensive, complicated and can even be inconvenient. But compared to what? Rebuilding burned towns? Recovering ruined lives? Fighting largescale fires?

Of course, at the root of the extreme weather that causes and intensifies wildfires, is climate change. The longer we delay taking effective action to reverse climate change, the higher the bill we will owe to the piper.

David Stone, Eugene

Old Glory for all Americans

I've decided to fly a small American flag on my car. I am a liberal-leaning human and I'm rankled the "right wing" has co-opted our flag for its cause. I believe (as we are all Americans) need to fly Old Glory, as well. Perhaps, if more of us choose to proudly display it (no matter our politics) we'd at least see each other as belonging to the same country, unified in the spirit of patriotism in this time of democracy and decision making.

Martha Snyder, Eugene

The cost of playing it down

President Trump was heard on a tape from February, telling the famous reporter Bob Woodward that the COVID-19 virus was passed through the air and more deadly than the flu. On Sept. 9, he told a press conference that he minimized the virus because "I don't want to create panic."

It's an unusual motivation for this president. In contrast, his reelection effort focuses on creating panic. Democrats destroying your suburbs! Anarchists rampaging in your cities! A panic that he hopes to induce, while the country desperately needs calming.

A panic that required him to take positive action to mitigate it, that's so different! He'd rather downplay it. He'd rather party at his resorts with taxpayers covering the Secret Service room and board bills.

The virus? It will go away by itself, or by Easter, or in the warm summer, or with an October surprise vaccine, or when we stop testing so much, or try injecting disinfectant.

So instead, as he told Woodward, "I wanted to always play it down. I still like playing it down." So playing it down, hundreds of thousands died.

Larry Koenigsberg, Eugene

Electrify your future

When is your electric vehicle much more than transportation? When you have no electricity for three days due to fire!

This week, due to the fires, our co-op utility made the safest choice of deactivating the power lines to prevent starting more fires, especially in the rural forest interface.

We did fine the first day with our little solar panels and electric generator/storage battery, but by the second day, keeping things running was difficult. Partly because the smoke lowered the solar energy collection.

Day two, eureka! The EV car is a BIG electric battery. Why didn't I think of it sooner? What we were powering used five miles of electricity per hour. With a car that holds 300 miles of electricity, that's a lot of charging. With a 20-mile trip to town, I can charge the car up and return home to power our needs. As I listen to my neighbors running their gas generators, further polluting the air.

Electrify everything and get off the fossil fuels that are destroying our children's livable future.

I am happy to be part of the solution!

Make your next car an EV, you won't be sorry!

Debra McGee, Eugene

A worthy trade off

Thank you Lane Electric Co-op for shutting off my power for two nights. If you hadn't, all of the communities around Eugene would have been in flames. As bad as it is now, the risk of more fires will increase until there is significant rainfall. That is at least a month away. During this time, I will gladly live with smoke, heat and no water and light to prevent my home from burning up and losing my life!