

incontrovertible proof of administration involvement. And I agree with Mr. Corn: It's implausible that the Bushites *organized* the attack; they simply don't have the resources, nor could they keep that secret for long. What is plausible is that they *let it happen*. That would involve very few players.

Why is it worth addressing? Because proof would be the surest and quickest way to bring down this dangerous administration; but also, and even more important, because the evidence, if reported, helps emphasize their untrustworthiness. At best, they have the choice between gross negligence and malice. That is what the American voters need to hear.

So, please do your homework and write another article, on the facts of the issue. Check out the websites on the "Deception Dollar." Ask Robinowitz to defend his position. I wager he can practically write the article for you, granted that you should address the evidence critically. That's what we need; we're counting on you. Do you expect *The Register-Guard* to do it?

Charles Newlin
Corvallis

GOING, GOING ...

Since Europeans arrived here a few hundred years ago, 97 percent of native and old growth forests have been destroyed. The majority of the remaining 3 percent (or so), is on public land, mostly national forests, and yet this is *still* being aggressively logged.

If you care about what's happening in our backyard and around the state, visit the website www.cascadiasummer.com and click on Smokey the Bear. Or call the forest service employees responsible for "auctioning off" our forests: Rick Scott, Middle Fork Ranger District (782-2283 or 782-5320), Monty Wilson, Blue River (McKenzie) Ranger District (822-7203).

Let them know how you feel about log-

ging the remaining old growth and native forests; tell them there is plenty to be harvested from the second growth "tree farms."

Kim Garrison
Eugene

BOZIEVICH'S STAND

LCC board member Jay Bozievich was on the local news from the steps of the State Capitol recently advocating for the anti-income tax surcharge initiative put forth by Kevin Mannix and the Republican Party. This is at a time when the college is facing a projected \$6.2 million deficit for the 2003/2004 academic year. If the bipartisan measure is repealed, the impact of fewer class offerings and substantially higher tuition will be devastating for students wishing to complete their educational goals.

I assume board members should have the well-being of the college as their primary objective. Certainly, reliable funding is a priority. I believe Mr. Bozievich's position is incompatible with the LCC educational mission and his obligation as a board member to secure the funding necessary to ensure a viable future for the college. Public funding for education made it possible for Mr. Bozievich to obtain a college degree and we ought to provide the same opportunity for future generations of Oregonians.

Pat Reilly
Eugene

LIEBERMAN AS HAWK

After reading the accounts of the first Democratic presidential debate, I was appalled to see a Democrat taking a position to the right of President Bush on military (and, really, by extension, economic) policy. To make sure that I understood Sen. Lieberman's views, I checked the facts on his website. Sadly, the reports were accurate: he does, in fact, speak of sending additional troops to Iraq.

FIELD OF STUMPS

I read with interest James Johnston's (8/28) article "Fire Season." I appreciate *EW* taking on an issue that is both national in scope and local in impact. Johnston's article ably attempts to take on, in a limited space, a problem about which I suspect he could have written volumes.

I wonder, had his byline not been followed by a note indicating that Johnston is an "environmental activist," if letters such as that of Cynthia Orlando's in last week's *EW* would have been as virulent in tone and personal in attack. I didn't think that Johnston "demonized" the Forest Service, although there was a strong, and quite valid, indictment of a misguided, counterproductive and fiscally irresponsible fire management policy.

I take strong exception to Orlando's claim that lawsuits and court cases have tied the Forest Service's hands and prevented them from forest management practices that reduce fuel buildup and the risk of catastrophic fire. I dare her to name one fuel reduction project on the Willamette National Forest that's been held up by litigation. There are few, if any, genuine fuel reduction projects being done on the Willamette. The management of this forest is focused on the old-growth clearcutting business, and old-growth clearcutting is what has (thankfully) been held up by lawsuits. Clearcutting stands of nearly 7-foot diameter old-growth Douglas fir, as happened in the recent Berry Patch timber sale, is a far cry from thinning brush and small trees. Ironically, it is these larger trees that are fire-resistant.

The most inaccurate part of Orlando's critique was the bold claim that the USFS clearcut only 80 acres of forest in 2002. Drive up FS Road 1817 (about five miles from the Clark Fire) to the Berry Patch timber sale and you'll see what forest "management" on the Willamette looks like: a field of stumps that used to be a 500-year-old forest. This sale clearcut 50 acres of old growth in 2002. Or check out the Rhody timber sale east of Lowell (40 acres of old-growth clearcuts in 2002). These two examples in the Middle Fork Ranger District alone are 90 acres of clearcut and do not even begin to reflect the total number of acres that were clearcut in Oregon in 2002. All told, there are more than 500 acres of old-growth clearcuts planned on the Willamette National Forest within 20 miles of the Clark fire. Twenty acres of old growth on the Straw Devil timber sale were clearcut just a month ago. And this is just one ranger district of 155 national forests.

Camilla Mortensen
Eugene

OFAM at The Shedd



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