

BIAS SHOWING

EW's left bias is showing again: There hasn't been an issue go by in the past few months where white cops were not accused — either by your staff or your readers — of misconduct against minorities. Well, I'm sure if that's really going on, it's appropriate that *EW* is flagging these alleged incidents. Few things anger me as much as police misconduct and/or abuse of their authority.

But I haven't seen one word in *EW* about the far more serious allegations and indictments against two Hispanic (former) EPD members, although your arch nemesis, *The Register-Guard*, has provided significant and regular coverage.

I'm sure the reason for the lack of coverage is that you don't want to raise any questions about EPD's "diversity" program — which you actually commended in last week's issue. But here are two examples of where the program apparently failed badly.

Misconduct by police of any race or ethnicity is dangerous to our freedoms, should not be tolerated and should be condemned in the strongest possible terms by a responsible press.

*Jerry Ritter
Springfield*

EDITOR'S NOTE: We look to cover what the R-G and broadcast media are either ignoring or don't know about.

NO RESPECT

So, for more than 65 years, Essie Washington-Williams never came forward "out of respect" for Sen. Strom Thurmond to say that she was his half-black daughter. How could this woman respect a man who statutorily raped her 16-year-old mother? He was a man who was a symbol of the racist mentality of the south that terrorized and killed black people. During the years of her silence, this bigot move up through the ranks of senate seniority, spewing his hatred while blacks were being lynched, bombed, and pistol-whipped for exercising their democratic rights. She could have stopped him in his tracks, and maybe the civil rights movement would have progressed much more rapidly. I have no respect for the plantation mentality of Miss Essie.

*Jerry Harris
Eugene*

TRUE CRIMES

Bring it on! Saddam Hussein will soon be tried as a war criminal but it's a mere beginning. While we are on a roll, there are some other high-profile individuals who should also be tried for crimes against humanity, not to mention treason.

Let's start with George W. Bush, whose administration illegally waged war and occupied a country that did not attack the U.S., killing some 10,000 Iraqis and 300 American soldiers to date. This preemptive war was based on a litany of lies, such as the false claim of WMDs, the fabrication of the case of "imminent" threat to the U.S., in addition to the false claim in the State of the Union Address that Iraq was receiving enriched uranium from Niger. In the context of committing a nation to war, these lies are acts of treason.

Then there are the wrenching and anguished cries from newly converted humanitarians Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney gnashing their teeth over the abuse of Iraqi citizens under the reign of Saddam Hussein. It all seems a bit odd considering the fact that

Rumsfeld and Cheney supported Iraq in its war with Iran, which killed one million people. They also lobbied relentlessly to take Iraq off the list of "terrorist states," which helped elevate it to "favored" trading status just a few days after being told that Hussein had nerve-gassed hundreds of Kurdish civilians back in the 1980s. As a matter of fact, these same chemical compounds were provided by U.S. companies and the U.S. Pentagon. Rumsfeld, Cheney and others should be tried for crimes against humanity, but then again, Saddam was "our" boy then, so who cares?

There's more: The recent "outing" of a CIA operative for petty and vindictive political reasons in George Bush Sr.'s words is an act of "treason." Let's get these trials going.

*Gerry Rempel
Eugene*

FIGHTING MONSTERS

There has been much lively debate over our national policy of quelling terrorism by invading other countries and eroding our own civil rights in the pursuit of the illusion of security. The continuing attack upon our cherished civil liberties through the so-called PATRIOT Act and a multitude of other laws and dictates is precisely what the terrorists hoped for. Those liberties are what make America a beacon of human freedom, but they are endangered by the actions of the newest version of the Three Stooges: Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld. Their chosen weapons of Ashcroft and Ridge are the thin edge of the wedge that divides democracy from tyranny.

I would remind all those who would be patriots of Friedrich Nietzsche's warning: "Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster."

*Pete Giberson
Eugene*

FOR LOVE OR MONEY?

I've responded several times to ads in the personals. It seems that a lot of the people who write in aren't honest about what they want. I'm a male, 65, alone. I live on my retirement. I'm not rich in money but I have a lot of love or care for someone who's not looking for a pot of gold.

It seems to me all women want is to see how much you have and not who you are as a person. A lot of us may not be rich in money but rich in how we treat people. Why can't they look at us for who we are and not what we have. When they see what I drive and where I live, that's the end. I live in a nice manufactured trailer. I try to do the best I can on a disability income. When they hear the word "disability," they think we're crippled; I'm not. I do everything everyone else does. I've had two open-heart surgeries and walk with a cane. I love fishing, crabbing, beach walking and driving in the hills. Too bad ladies, I'm not rich.

*Leslie Swafford
Junction City*

PET PEEVE

I'm generally slow to anger, but after reading the letter by John Fluent (12/4) on the subject of putting a tax on pet food, it was all I could do not to go outside and scream!

What bright light in a bureau somewhere thought this one up and when did I vote it in? Isn't it bad enough that when I open my phone bill the taxes put on without my con-



sent are more than the basic phone service?! Does the phrase "taxation without representation" ring a bell? Saving feral cats and scrounging ill-bred dogs should not be a priority in any community. I protest paying for the ignorance of humans (who will mate with anything that breathes) who do not act responsibly by getting their pets fixed or in choosing not take on the job of having a pet in the first place. Maybe if our local animal shelters didn't charge exorbitant prices for their animals, more people would adopt them and they wouldn't have to be euthanized.

There are children in our community who need food, clothing, and attention, and I think humans are much more important than animals. Before I pay another unfair and unwanted tax to support the saving of mangy animals that nobody really cares about, I will have my purebred, papered, neutered dog put down!

*Annie Kayner
Eugene*

ON THE AIR

I suggest to Erik Miller (12/11) that he avail himself of the four FM radio stations on the left side of the dial. All are local, noncommercial and intelligent: KRVM (91.9), run by local high school students, thanks its supporters without commercials; KLCC (89.7), which runs NPR news on weekday mornings and KWAX (91.1), the university's classical station, both list their sponsors tastefully. And, my favorite, KWVA (88.1), the UO's "Willamette Valley Alternative," on 24 hours a day, offers a wide spectrum of music. Most of the talk consists of public service announcements, upcoming concert events, and DJs' expressions about music. On weekdays from 7 to 8 am, KWVA airs "Democracy Now" with Amy Goodman, and weekday evenings from 6 to 7 pm, Free Speech Radio (Pacifica) airs news you won't hear elsewhere, followed by "The Nation Magazine." Then often our own local reporter, Amy Merwin, provides us with local news and interviews.

There's no excuse to tolerate commercial radio (or TV). Once weaned from the schlock of commercial radio/TV, you'll wonder why

you ever subjected yourself. Those times I am forced to listen to these broadcasts, I'm appalled by the junk people endure. Being barraged with rude talk and the push to spend money is insulting and abrasive. DJs talk over the first minute of a song, their humor is insulting, news is ultra-condensed and fascist, the commercials loud and urgent, and often a promise of "three songs in a row" is offered. Wow! Please support local stations by tuning in.

*Sherry Franzen
Eugene*

TRENDSETTER

I didn't watch ABC News (Corporate Media Propaganda) last night and for many nights before that because I have come to believe that reporters and journalists have been replaced at ABC by Corporate Media Stooges. Lately, when I tuned into any commercial newscast, local or national, it was mostly to confirm that which was not reported.

For that reason, as time has passed, I have been replacing corporate networks and stations with national and local publicly owned news sources. This is because I want actual news, not entertainment. Now I listen to NPR, The Jefferson Exchange, Independent Media, BBC, CBC, etc. Because ABC has pulled their reporters for the Kucinich, Braun, and Sharpton campaigns, I have permanently pulled ABC News from my TV. It is not that I have selected a presidential candidate to vote for, it is that I am in the processes of selecting new sources of information — ABC did not make the cut.

One would think that Diane Sawyer's apology for telling the truth in an effort to protect a corporate merger would have caused me to stop watching what ABC calls news. But for the past 40 years, I have been a corporate media junkie. Now, corporate bias is so outrageously blatant that I am forced to make the change. Since I am of the age group that makes up the largest block of audience for news, it seems, perhaps, that I am an important loss, and possibly the start of a trend.

*A. Max Opus
Cottage Grove*