

principle of responsible and accountable government, which must live within its means, like the rest of us! It's rare to read about an elected official who stands for more than just robbing the taxpayers to pay off his or her favorite special interest. Good work, Jay!

*Frank Plaisted
Eugene*

GONE FOR GOOD

One thing that has not been discussed in the controversy over ball fields vs. natural areas in our city parks (cover story, 12/24) is that once a natural area is eliminated, it is gone for good. I am a professional ecologist and have never seen a natural area fully restored, even after millions of dollars have been spent to do so. In contrast, any flat area can be converted into a ball field. Maybe the city should look for some vacant land to convert into ball fields.

*Randy Webb
Eugene*

CONTRABAND CONTROL

The puritanical current that runs so deep in "mainstream America" certainly perpetuates the marginalization of hippies and others who smoke marijuana, but to the interests that back both sides of most elections, the issue is control.

The repeal of alcohol prohibition dealt a severe blow to the "rule of law" by exposing the very existence of bad laws and the effectiveness of civil disobedience in their dissolution. Government intransigence was only overcome by juries refusing to convict alcohol defendants until Congress finally took the hint and relented. Reeling from the blow, the establishment began to require of jurors an oath to uphold the law, bad or good, thus depriving posterity of a formidable weapon against tyranny.

So now, when the rare marijuana defendant threatened with incarceration refuses the plea bargain extortion and stipulates, or admits, possession, the court essentially directs, or orders, the jury to return a guilty verdict. And it complies.

Anyone still naive enough to consider someone else's drug use a moral issue might wish to explore the implications of Jesus's moderate alcohol consumption, and his failure to proscribe the use of other drugs. You love your paper tigers and scapegoats, though, so when America is bankrupt (which will happen before I admit its authority over what I do to me) and can no longer even afford interest on the debt, blame anyone but yourself when we have to trade national sovereignty for an IMF/World Bank bailout.

*Pete Raiteri
Eugene*

TAXING POOCH

In response to Pet Wars (12/24) and Pet Peeve (12/31), I have been working to solve the homeless pet problem for most of the 56 years I have been on this planet. To see people so petty that they are unwilling to spend \$2-\$5 per year to help solve the pet overpopulation problem in Lane County is saddening. Ann Jensen seems to be worried about privacy and money. I guess she is unaware that if you wanted to you could go down to LCARA (Lane County Animal Regulation Authority) right now and have access to anyone's name that bought a license for their dog — it's public information. So don't worry too much about your vet selling you out. The re-

port that she is so worried about has to do with breeders and people who deal with animals on a commercial level. Could Ann be a breeder, by any chance? Hopefully she is an "ethical and responsible breeder" who really cares about what happens to the animals she brings into this world.

Annie Kayner is worried about "taxation without representation." Annie, the county commissioners are your representation! Annie also worries about "scroungy ill bred dogs" and "mangy animals." Does *not* being one of these so-called "purebred, papered" dogs sentence you to death? And last, Annie says, "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, there has not been a first tax, let alone "another" for animals. And yes, people really *do* care about these animals. How sad for your poor overbred purebred dog that he should have to end up with a guardian that cares more about \$6 a year than his undying devotion and unconditional love.

*Molly Sargent
Pleasant Hill*

INDIFFERENT COMMISH?

Each month I have a day-long treatment for my type of cancer. I have learned to fill the seven-hour procedure by watching the county commissioner's meetings. I found these meetings most informative, since human services are impacted with the outcome of these proceedings. The impressions of participation by Commissioners Sorenson, Dwyer and Hampton have been very positive, but the two remaining commissioners regarding an attitude of indifference and lack of attention paid to those citizens who have taken their time and energy to present their views. Are the Commissioners Green and Morrison only concerned with the contributors to their campaign coffers?

*Arnie Gottlieb
Cottage Grove*

UNCOVERED

The cover of your Dec. 31 issue was hysterical. I laughed my hat off.

*Therin Corvington
Eugene*

BETTER CARE

I was surprised to read the letter to the editor from Ann Jensen (12/24). The unfortunate reality is that due to mankind's habit of welcoming animals when they are "cute" and discarding them when they become a responsibility, we have more and more animals that are not properly fed and sheltered, nor spayed or neutered traveling backyards every day. With this new law, we as humans will be required to accept some responsibility for the animals that we keep, provide them with better care, and make sure that they or their offspring will not become victims of this county's current 24-hour euthanasia policy.

All of our pets, whether dog, cat, ferret, or otherwise, are creatures of Mother Earth. They deserve proper food, water, protection from disease, and veterinary care. They tend to be more loving than most of the people that I encounter on the street these days. Can you tell me why they do not deserve the care and consideration that we expect ourselves?

*Amber Dean
Eugene*

OFAM at The Shedd

Oregon Festival of American Music

*The American
Symphonia*

Friday, January 30th
7:30 pm ~ The Shedd

Night Music

James Paul, Conductor
The American Symphonia
Chamber Orchestra
Maria Jette, soprano
Sandy Naishtat, baritone

Mozart, *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (1787)
Dvorák, *Nocturne* (1870)
Colin McPhee, *Nocturne* (1958)
Barber, *Dover Beach*, (1931)
Sandy Naishtat, baritone
Barber, *Adagio for Strings* (1936)
Barber, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* (1947)
Maria Jette, soprano



Tickets: 687-6526



John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD
Robert H. Davis, MD
The Eye Center

Now Hear This 2003-04
OFAM NHT
2003-2004
www.ofam.org

Dianne Reeves

Monday, Feb 2nd
7:30 pm at The Shedd

ISLER&CO
Certified Public Accountants
and Business Advisors

OFAM's Magical MOOMBAH!

A musical vaudeville for Kids!

2nd & 3rd Saturday mornings!
Sat, January 17
"Crazy Critters"
Moombah 1: 10:30 am
Playshop: 11:30 am
Moombah 2: 12:30 pm *Two Shows!*
in The Shedd Gym!!
(868 High - corner of High & Broadway)

Tickets: \$6.00
(each ticket gets you into one Moombah and the Playshop!)
Moombucks: \$1.00 off with this ad!
For info call OFAM at 687-6526

The Moombah is proudly sponsored by
Kettle Foods
Serra Mist

GIVE MUSIC

OFAM Gift Certificates
687-6526

OFAM at The Shedd
868 High Street (at Broadway)
541-687-6526 - www.ofam.org



John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD
Robert H. Davis, MD
The Eye Center
Presenting Festival Sponsor