



OREGON BEACHES GET COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The deadline for commenting on Oregon's first-ever comprehensive beach plan is coming up March 19. Public hearings are being held this month in Pacific City and Tillamook regarding management of 260 miles of Oregon's sandy beaches. Draft plans are available in the Eugene Public Library and online at www.prd.state.or.us/ (search for OSMP).

"We have now reached the stage at which draft plans are on the table," says Fran Recht, conservation director of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition. "This is a key moment both to address specifics in the plans and to speak up for values that aren't adequately represented. Those who participated earlier in the process can get involved again by commenting on how well the draft plan reflects your hopes."

Among the many issues to be addressed are enforcement of beach driving rules, beaches still open to vehicles, acquisition of buffer parks, strengthening riprap rules, protection of tidepools and habitat areas, public education, fires in large-diameter driftwood, commercial removal of sand and wood, dog use and sand sailing.

Comments can be sent by e-mail to OSMP.HCP@state.or.us

SOPHIA SANCTUARY'S DAY OF HEALING

Sophia Sanctuary is a women's temple without walls. Yet its members, who include women of all sacred traditions who are committed to healing, education, ritual and service, want to get some walls.

Sophia Sanctuary is a private non-profit that serves the greater Eugene-Springfield Oregon community with eight public rituals a year celebrating the cycles of women's lives and the Earth. Imbolc, Beltane, Lammas and Samhain are for women only, while the Solstices and Equinoxes are for all genders and families.

"We are seeking to create a safe haven for women to share their spiritual vision, healing arts, sustainable living skills, social activism, and love for the Earth," say organizers, and a fund-raising event, in honor of International Women's Day and to cover ongoing operating expenses, as well as provide for the purchase of a physical space, is being planned for this Saturday, March 6.

The event, "A Day of Healing for Women," will include footbaths, massage, psychic readings, Breema, aromatherapy, and

more. Workshops will include bodywork, herbalism, animal totems, and psychic empowerment, among others. There will be Sufi dancing and musical acts including Joan Benson on clavichord, Amy Raven on harp Liz Crane on Native American flute, and women's vocal group Sweetgrass will perform at lunchtime.

The day is broken up into morning (10-1) and afternoon sessions (2-5) and will end with a drum circle in praise of the full moon, which rises in Virgo.

"Virgo is all about healing and caring for each other and the planet," says co-organizer D. Maria.

The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 40th and Donald. Admission is \$20-\$35, sliding scale, and includes all workshops, healings, lunch and childcare. The 5 pm full moon ritual is free and open to all. —AS

REPORT CARD GRADES MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Oregon Democrats in Congress did well and Republicans did poorly in the new Wild Card analysis of congressional action on key wilderness and public lands issues. Rep. Peter DeFazio got the highest scores and Rep. Greg Walden got the worst scores.

The independent, nonprofit American Wilderness Coalition released last week its analysis of selected votes and positions by members of the 108th Congress. Included were the fight over protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the undermining of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and a new federal regulation that threatens to allow abandoned trails and cow paths to be claimed as public highways in order to prevent wilderness designation.

Two scores or ratings were given, one for 2001-2002 and the other for 2003. Sen. Gordon Smith received an F and a C, while Sen. Ron Wyden received an A and a B+. Rep. Earl Blumenaur received two A's, DeFazio two A+'s. Darlene Hooley earned two A's, Walden got a D and an F and David Wu got an A+ and an A.

To view Wild Card online, visit www.americanwilderness.org

PEACE CORP GROUP EYES AFGHANISTAN POST 9/11

An estimated 350 Peace Corp veterans live in Eugene today and many of them will be turning out for the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) curry dinner benefit Sunday, March 7. Tickets for the dinner are already sold out, but the RPCV is hosting a public talk and video presentation at 12:30 pm Sunday at the Hilton Mezzanine.

Guest speaker will be Kathleen Rafiq, a television producer from Santa Barbara who has made three trips to Afghanistan in the last year and a half on behalf of women, children and rural villages needing help.



Sophia Sanctuary's D. Maria, Katya Blissenbach and Donella Alston.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MARRIAGE IN AMERICA

"After more than two centuries of American jurisprudence...a few judges and local authorities are presuming to change the most fundamental institution of civilization."
—George W. Bush

IN REVOLUTIONARY TIMES, A WIFE EFFECTIVELY BECAME HER HUSBAND'S PROPERTY, WITH FEW RIGHTS OF HER OWN.

MARRIAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SACRED BOND BETWEEN A MAN AND HIS CHATTEL--AND SO IT WILL ALWAYS BE!



IN SLAVEHOLDING STATES, SLAVES--INCLUDING FREED SLAVES--WERE NOT ALLOWED TO MARRY.

MARRIAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SACRED BOND BETWEEN TWO WHITE PEOPLE--AND SO IT WILL ALWAYS BE!



AS RECENTLY AS 1967, SIXTEEN STATES REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE MIXED-RACE MARRIAGES.

MARRIAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SACRED BOND BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN OF THE SAME SKIN COLOR--AND SO IT WILL ALWAYS BE!

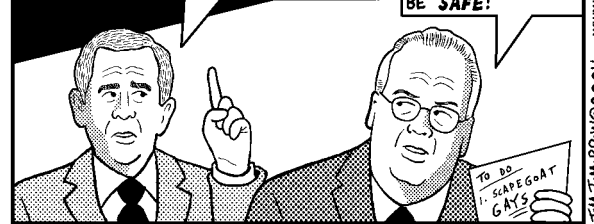


THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME.

MARRIAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SACRED BOND BETWEEN A HETEROSEXUAL MAN AND A HETEROSEXUAL WOMAN--AND WE'RE GONNA KEEP IT THAT WAY! YOU CAN'T GO MESSIN' WITH TRADITION!

WHY, PEOPLE MIGHT START MARRYIN' FARM ANIMALS AND HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND WHO KNOWS WHAT! RIGHT, KARL?

ABSOLUTELY, SIR. WE'D BETTER AMEND THE CONSTITUTION--JUST TO BE SAFE!



"The problem I saw after traveling outside the safety of Kabul," she says, "was that no money was going to more than 77 percent of the country. Maternal health care is now either first or second worst in the world."

Rafiq raised money to build a clinic in the outskirts of Kabul, and a kindergarten/daycare for 600-plus boys and girls. She is also working with Direct Relief International on five other rural clinics, "clinics that would otherwise be receiving meds only once, or few times a year."

She is involved in raising money for numerous projects in Afghanistan, from orphanages to water systems to providing dental care in the countryside.

Rafiq knows Afghanistan well. She is the former wife of the nephew of King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan. She also has local connections. Her son and his family live in Springfield.

Sunday's events follow a visit to UO March 2 by Peace Corp Deputy Director Judy Olson. UO is one of the top recruiters of Peace Corps volunteers in the nation, with 81 graduates currently serving. UO ranks #7 among large colleges and universities in terms of alumni currently serving overseas. TJT

IMPEACHMENT OF JUSTICES IS TOPIC OF UO DEBATE

Should the five Supreme Court justices who gave the 2000 presidential election to George W. Bush be impeached? That topic will be debated by Charlie Porter and as yet unnamed members of the UO faculty at 7 pm Tuesday, March 9 in the Knight Law Center, Room 175 on campus at 1515

Agate St. The room has seating for 200 and admission is free.

National media have been invited to cover the debate.

Porter is a former Oregon Congressman and recent UO Distinguished Service Award winner. He is also co-chair with John C. Cougill

of the Oregon Democratic Party Committee to Investigate Impeachment of the Rehnquist Five.

Porter says the impeachment issue is "the most serious question facing all branches of our government since the U.S. Civil War. Interference with an election is a crime and we require that those responsible be punished."

UO President David Frohnmayer has been invited to introduce the debate. For more information, call 344-4435.

HEALTH CARE ACTION

A National Health Care Action Day is planned for March 4 in communities all across the nation. The day is being organized by Jobs with Justice to fuel a growing movement for a comprehensive national health insurance plan. Activists will highlight the outrage workers feel about paying more for their health benefits while cuts in funding and managed care mean they get less health care in return.

In Eugene, a rally for health care will start in the South Eugene High School (19th and Patterson) parking lot NE corner at 4:30 pm. Activists will rally there, then march to Safeway at 18th and Oak and then march back.

The rally will feature workplace stickering for the various unions involved, including Justice for Janitors, Service Employees International Union, Communications Workers of America, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFSCME, IAM, and teachers' unions. For more information, call 736-9041 or e-mail essn@efn.org

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

A Feb. 12 story about the Oregon Natural Resources Council's history failed to mention the contributions made by former U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver to wilderness protection in Oregon during the 1970s and 1980s. It was Weaver, not former Sen. Mark Hatfield, who originally sponsored legislation in the U.S. House (HR 1149) that eventually became the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984.

