

bicycle outside of the wild land around Waldo Lake.

Dave Stone
Founding member
Waldo Wilderness Council

PREFERRED OPTIONS

Instead of considering voting for a candidate who favors preemptive strikes, or voting for a candidate who says he might invade a nation if the U.N. could be persuaded to approve that invasion, from an ethical if not also economic standpoint, wouldn't we be better served by a compassionate, fiscally conservative, commander-in-chief willing to make friends of those whose "weapons of mass destruction" could become as low-tech as that of fleas infected with the bubonic plague?

If the U.S. is unwilling to make friends by helping feed the starving children of needy nations, for our own protection from low-tech weapons as well as likely escalating costs of war, shouldn't the U.S. at least refrain from dropping bombs upon those starving children?

U.S. voters concerned about their vote being wasted could be able, if they might wish, to keep their archaic Electoral College democracy within a preferential voting system if Democrats and Republicans were willing to allow voters the freedom of that instant runoff system.

Helen Woodford
Eugene

TELL THE TRUTH

Here Peter DeFazio goes again wanting his constituents to believe what he says instead of what he does. Yes, Congressman DeFazio wrote a letter to his opponent Jim Feldkamp stating that in "every election season I have participated in debates with my opponents." Absolutely false. In fact, Peter did everything he could to avoid being near where I was during the 2002 congressional campaign when I was his opponent. I wish Peter would just tell the truth to the people of the district.

Liz VanLeeuwen
Linn County State Legislator

MORE DOCTORS NOW

Insurance companies want us to think that doctors are leaving Oregon to avoid paying high medical malpractice premiums. However, I just read about a study by Public Citizen showing that the number of doctors in Oregon is actually increasing. Measure 35 will not help doctors; instead, it will limit our rights by changing the Constitution. Voters should not be swayed by the insurance indus-

try's slick campaign.

Please join me in voting no on 35!

Helene Montgomery
Eugene

CAP CEO SALARIES

The latest grand idea by the Bush administration is to cap liability suits. They claim it is to lower health care costs. I personally find it ironic that the wealthy are always saying we should allow the free market to sort things out, unless of course it is something that affects their bottom line (the insurance companies in this case).

A better idea to me would be to cap CEO salaries and perks, including their outrageous retirement plans. There is a minimum wage and, to be honest, most of us have jobs that have a ceiling — in other words a maximum wage for that particular job. But corporate executives live in a different world — who sets their salaries?

This Labor Day I can't help but think of all those who labor extremely hard to create all this profit, only to have it skimmed off the top. While most people I know retire with very little for all their sweat, many can never afford to retire, period. Not exactly an equitable system in my mind. Once again I say cap CEO salaries.

Tim Boyden
Eugene

NO NEED FOR SACRIFICE

It's happened yet again. Several more hill-sides in the Row River Valley containing trees for life, both human and wild, have been *scraped clean*, otherwise known as completely clearcut. Industrial logging employs huge machinery and only a couple of men, yet it is defended as good for the economy and schools. Who is responsible for the lie that we have to sacrifice the environment for education and jobs?

The unemployment in Oregon has recently spiked to 7.4 percent. The number of uninsured is up and Oregonians are making on average \$3,000 less that they were three years ago. The continued clearcutting and opening up of our forests to industry will make our environment more barren. The environment is the long-term solution to Oregon's economy. In a country overly wrought with a decimated environment, Oregon still boasts beautiful places for people to visit, thriving farming communities and wild lands. When people visit Oregon they often remark on the loss of local communities and beautiful environment at home that they are able to find here. Do we have to accept ours going the same way?

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