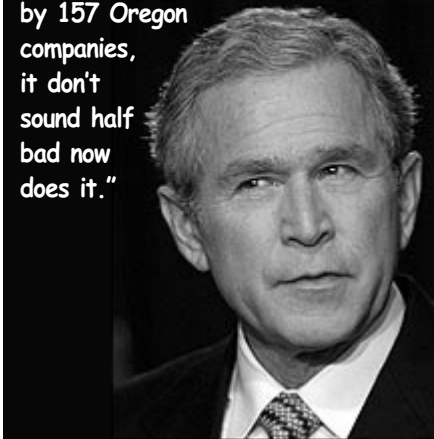


news Briefs

"I know numbers, they're numerical. Ya' see if I divide 27,900 lost jobs by 157 Oregon companies, it don't sound half bad now does it."



DOCUMENTING BUSH'S ECONOMIC RECORD

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), since George Bush took office in 2000 the economy has lost 1.8 million private sector jobs, which is seven million jobs short of Bush's predictions. The private sector job losses have been offset by some gains in government jobs. Total unemployment in the nation has reached eight million people, according to Bernie Pollack of the AFL-CIO in Oregon. Pollack says 157 companies in Oregon have reported "major layoffs" totaling 27,900 Oregonians losing their jobs since 2000.
- Jobs today are shifting to lower-paying industries paying \$9,160 per year less on average, according to an Economic Policy Institute report in early 2004.
- In Oregon, unemployment has increased 44 percent under Bush. More than 49,000 more Oregonians are unemployed. In total, 40,323 more workers in Oregon have become unemployed under Bush, according to the BLS (<http://www.bls.gov>). The agency

also reports that 25,800 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Oregon.

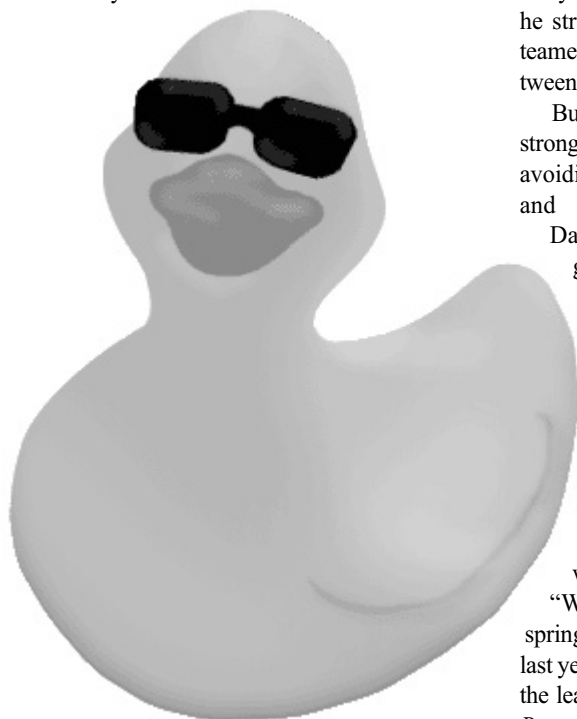
- Family health insurance premiums have increased by more than \$2,600 under Bush. In the U.S., the total family premium for health insurance has increased to \$9,068, according to a Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits. The U.S. Census says 3.7 million Americans have lost their health insurance, and a total of 43 million are without health insurance, including 511,000 Oregonians. — *TJT*

SLO-MO SPRINT CARRIES HOT CHICK TO VICTORY

After an early breakaway sprint that set her ahead of the pack, Hot Chick beat out last year's first place finisher Quacker to win the gold in the much anticipated Rubber Ducky Race on the Willamette River in the heart of Eugene Oct. 9.

After plunging into the cold water from the bridge more than 15 feet above the river, a chaotic rush to break away from the flock ensued. Hot Chick maneuvered to the outside of the pack with Quacker close behind in her wake. The two caught a tail-current giving them an added boost as they bobbed furiously to get out in front.

They were beak and beak until the first



THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

PARALLEL EARTH UPDATE: FOR FOUR YEARS, THE SMALL CUTE DOG'S HANDLERS HAVE KEPT HIM ON A TIGHT LEASH.

I'M SORRY--THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR PRESS CONFERENCES--

--HE'S TOO BUSY TAKING A BITE OUT OF TERROR!

PARALLEL SCOTT MCCLELLAN

BUT AT THE FIRST PARALLEL DEBATE, NO SUCH PRECAUTIONS WERE POSSIBLE--

MR. PRESIDENT, WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE MORE QUALIFIED THAN YOUR OPPONENT?

WHINE

WHIMPER

GRRRRRR

ARF!

--AND FRANKLY, THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T DO TOO WELL.

WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE ASK THE PRESIDENT TO STOP--ER--LICKING HIMSELF?

BAD DOGGIE! BAD MR. PRESIDENT! SIR!

(PARALLEL JOHN KERRY)

SLURP SLURP SLURP

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, THE MEDIA SEEMED TO NOTICE THE OBVIOUS.

WHY--THE LEADER OF THE FREE PARALLEL WORLD IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SMALL CUTE DOG!

HE IS NOT VERY PRESIDENTIAL AT ALL!

WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE POINT THIS OUT SOONER?

Action McNews

PARALLEL DEMOCRATS FELT A RENEWED SENSE OF OPTIMISM.

WHY--THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PUBLIC MAY CHOOSE THE CANDIDATE WHO ACTUALLY HAS HIGHER COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS!

MAYBE.

OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT'S TEAM STILL HAD SEVERAL WEEKS TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

THE PRESIDENT MAY BE A SMALL CUTE DOG, CHRIS--BUT AT LEAST HE'S NOT A FRENCH POODLE!

HA, HA! FRENCH! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!

PARALLEL--OH, YOU KNOW.

WILL THE CLEVER ONE-LINER WIN THE SMALL CUTE DOG A SECOND TERM? STAY TUNED!

TM TM RR RR W02004 ... www.thismodernworld.com

rapid, just a few hundred feet down in the course. Hot Chick chose a clean line, running down the green tongue and through a small wave train but Quacker got caught up in some swirling hydraulics, slowing him down a bit.

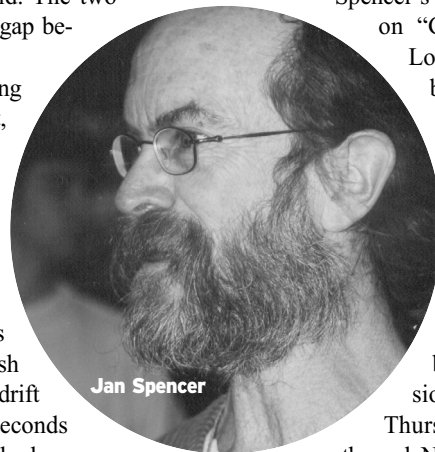
Daffy, last year's second place finisher who is recovering from webbing surgery following a run in with a snapping turtle last winter, failed to keep up in the initial breakaway but gained significantly on Quacker as he struggled through the rapid. The two teamed up to try to close the gap between them and Hot Chick.

But Hot Chick was bobbing strong, negotiating the current, avoiding dangerous strainers and race-ending eddies. Daffy and Quacker gained a few feet on Hot Chick, forcing her into an incredible slow motion sprint as she raced for the finish line and the waiting drift boat, crossing just seconds before Quacker bobbed across the line.

"Hot Chick really worked for this win," said her coach, Goose Me. "We've been training hard since the spring and after losing by just a few inches last year, she wasn't going to let Quacker take the lead. I'm very proud of her." — *Melissa Bearn, sports reporter*

GLOBAL TRENDS, LOCAL CHOICES EXAMINED

River Road community activist Jan Spencer's six-session course on "Global Trends — Local Choices" has been rescheduled to begin at 7 pm Oct. 14 at the new meeting room at East Blair Housing Co-op, 940 W. 4th Ave. in the Whiteaker neighborhood. The sessions will run every Thursday evening through Nov. 25 and are free, with donations welcome.



Jan Spencer

Spencer says participants are encouraged to attend all sessions but are free to come at any time. The first session will look at a "variety of global trends that will have significant impacts on global economics, international relations and the cost of many of the products we depend upon," says Spencer.

Spotlight on Small Business



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