

compensation" when condemning or taking private property. Oregon does not need Measure 37. It would be a disaster.

*Karen Reid
Springfield*

RURAL DOCS GET HELP

Supporters of Measure 35 claim it is needed to help rural doctors. But I just found out that the Oregon Legislature passed a law last year providing funds to pay up to 80 percent of their malpractice insurance. This is an Oregon solution developed by a Republican Legislature and signed by a Democratic governor. Why do we need to amend the Constitution and pass Amendment 35 if rural doctors are already getting help? Let's give our Oregon solution a chance to work. Vote no on Constitutional Amendment 35.

*Kristin Barber
Springfield*

THE RIGHT TO WEALTH

Many people wonder about the sincerity of the Bush administration when they speak about promoting democracy abroad and how democracy in the Arab world is essential to our national security. I believe they are sincere down to the bottoms of their hearts. I also believe that when they speak of democracy, they are really speaking of capitalism and free trade. I believe that they truly think that our national security hinges on securing the rights of American corporations to do business abroad. Their heart-felt belief is that this corporate success all over the world will guarantee our way of life for decades to come. I believe that most Americans have lost sight of any separation between democracy and capitalism. And people have bought into the idea that to protect the American dream, one must defend the right of any American to amass as much wealth as is humanly possible.

If this is what you believe to be the promise of America, then the Bush message is your ticket to the future — your lottery ticket that, if you play just right, can make you the next Donald Trump.

I am reminded of the story in Exodus, when Moses was late returning from the mountaintop. Those who were frightened that they had been deceived began to melt down their gold and make false idols to worship. Our way of life has become the worship of these false idols of oil and wealth. And a religious zealot playing on our fears can do great harm.

*Carol Horne
Eugene*

PARTISAN FACTION

Faye Stewart's recent curious boasting (letter to Eugene Chamber 8/13) of being "an active member of Eugene's business community" along with his earlier saying he'll sell the Lane County Fairgrounds and form a radical partisan voting faction with Commissioner Anna Morrison concerns me greatly. His apparent lack of judgment and political independence are very disappointing. Stewart's acceptance of \$1,700 of campaign cash from notorious Eugene developer John Musumeci who lusts after our fairgrounds is deeply distressing.

When the Board of Commissioners chose former Mayor Don Hampton to fill Tom Lininger's vacated East Lane seat, they (including Commissioner Morrison) rejected Stewart as a finalist due to his obvious lack of suitable qualifications.

While Hampton's political resume includes the Lane Economic Committee, Chairman of LRAPA, Coast Fork/Middle Fork and McKenzie Watershed Councils and 16 years in local elective office, Stewart's recent campaign reports read like a "who's who" of Eugene developer interests — poised to trample upon our rural Lane County's special character.

As a retired dentist who had to come up the ranks in my profession with years of training, internship and hands-on experience, I am more comfortable with Hampton's 30 years of experience in East Lane classrooms and 16 years of local and county office. Those thousands of hours and hundreds of issues give Hampton the winning edge in my book. Big campaign money, high priced political consultants and saturation commercials can't compete with Hampton's record of experience and independence!

*Dr. Tom Creager
Cottage Grove*

REJECT MEASURE 35

Did you know it is easier to check the background on a contractor remodeling your kitchen than it is to find out if your surgeon has a history of reckless or negligent behavior? If we want to improve patient safety we should crack down on reckless and negligent doctors. Measure 35 will not do anything to improve patient safety and it will hurt Oregonians. Before we amend the constitution we should try something less drastic.

Voters should reject Measure 35.

*Cathy Fitzsimmons
Eugene*

THINK OF THE DAMAGE

In 1993 I lived in Colorado and worked

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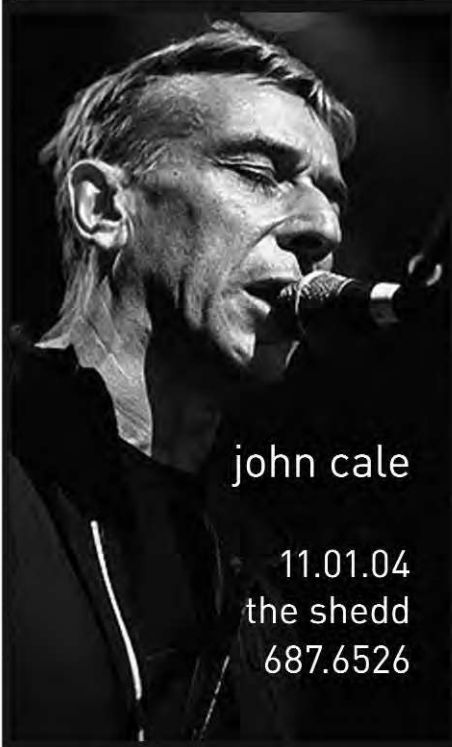
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