

conservatives tend to be very concerned with preserving family values. In many cases, however, their family values are neither humane nor Christian. Violence toward children is advocated, quoting a passage mistranslated from the Old Testament as, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." What the passage actually says in the original Aramaic is, "Spare the rood and spoil the child." A rood was a shepherd's staff used to guide sheep in the desired direction, not to hit them.

I have talked with many sincere people who believe God will cause everyone who doesn't accept Jesus as their savior to be tortured forever in hell, regardless of how good and honorable their lives are. No mere human being could be so evil as to torture people forever for their beliefs. It would appear that, without realizing it, these people may be worshipping an evil deity, the one they call Satan. The only God worthy of worship is one who is kinder and more loving than you are.

*Paul Spencer  
Eugene*

**MUDDY MCKENZIE**

Over the past few years, the government has planned more than 150 old-growth timber sales in the Pacific Northwest, on your public lands. Incredibly, some of the most irresponsible sales are planned in the McKenzie River watershed just east of Eugene.

People from all over the world come here to flyfish and raft the McKenzie River, while riverside trails are frequented by hikers and mountain bikers. Yet most vitally, the McKenzie River is the source of Eugene's drinking water.

When large trees are felled in the watershed, fragile root systems holding soil in place are damaged, while heavy logging machinery chews up the earth, resulting in a muddied-up McKenzie. Do we want to drink bottled water or protect our municipal water supply?

If Oregonians knew what was going on behind the beauty strip, they would be appalled. Aggressive old-growth logging in a world-renowned recreational paradise and in a municipal water supply just wouldn't fly. The

McKenzie River is our lifeblood.

Please take a few minutes to write to the U.S. Forest Service demanding they put a halt to all old-growth logging in the McKenzie River watershed, not to mention the rest of the state of Oregon. Write to: Dallas Emch, Willamette National Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 10607, Eugene 97440.

*Josh Schlossberg  
Eugene*

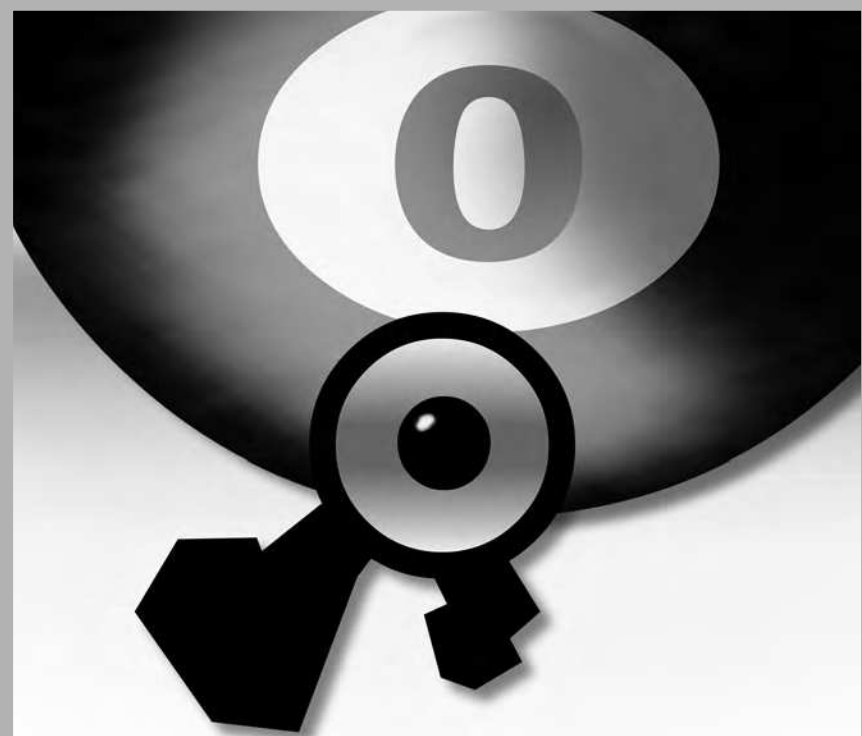
**TANTRUMING**

In response to Mr. Ford's letter (12/9) "Where are the Democrats?", do you really have to be asking that question? Did everybody already forget that John Kerry won Oregon? It is really not in my best interest to speak on behalf of John Kerry, but if he and his beliefs were so important to Oregon, then how come everyone has forgotten about him? Maybe the next Democratic candidate will have mercy on you all. All you ungrateful Democrats, it is interesting how certain people bring out certain characteristics in others. I must say, Kerry doesn't bring out the best in you.

Obviously not everyone believes the same as you do. That is why George W. Bush will remain our president for the next four years until the next Republican takes office. The Republicans didn't steal anyone's vote. You just can't handle that you're not in the majority. If you think people should rebel, that would take away even more of the freedom and peace that you think you so desperately deserve. How about instead of complaining about others, you get out there and throw your own little tantrums?

Our government is a Republican government. It always has been and always will be. If you don't like it so much, move somewhere else. We don't need people like that in our beautiful, free country! You should be appreciative of what you and your family have here. Yes, you have the right to vote, but fortunately, well unfortunately for you, so do I!

*Heather Humes  
Eugene*



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**FRIDAY NIGHTS**