

HERO COPS

On New Years' night, at about 4:30 in the morning, my orange Datsun ('73) pickup with the white bumpers and wheels was stolen. While I am a Quaker (Friends) and not greatly attached to material possessions, there was some sadness that I could no longer use "Gracie" for community service, the main purpose in having her.

These services include gardening for non-profit agencies, hauling donations to shelters, gardening and hauling for poor and aged people, transporting disabled and ill persons, even hauling the Christmas tree for the kids' program at our Quaker meeting house.

While I was coping well with the loss, and getting lots of support and ride offers from friends, my thoughts were also on the thief — what a miserable life they must have! Poor in spirit. Three nights later, at 11 on a heavily frosted night, Officer Holly Straw of the Eugene Police Department called me. She said she had made it her goal to find my truck that day, and indeed she had. Fortunately a neighbor (thanks, Mary!) was able to transport me and there was the good officer waiting for me. After sharing a hug and making sure the truck was driveable, she was gone into that cold, dark night.

Considering the coverage of the bigots in the police department (sexist, rapist, classist), it was a distinct pleasure to deal with this calm, patient, kind professional. Her attitude declared

her one of the heroes we need so much today. Officer Straw gave me a great start in the New Year — may we all strive to be heroes like her in the coming year!

Carla Jean Green
Eugene

WAR & THE POOR

I do confess that I am one of those liberals in whom the taint of a stolen election still lingered from 2000. Now, in 2004, I actually feel better that President Bush won both in the popular vote and the electoral college. Now, he is only as bad as our last worst president, Ronald Reagan.

I do worry about the cost of George's war on the health and well-being of this country, however. After all, Vietnam lost LBJ his Great Society, his attempt to lift the poor from poverty, because of the spiraling costs of that war. I wonder what this country will lose to the spiraling costs of Iraq, especially when George isn't trying to do a damn thing for the poor.

Rebecca Wilson
Springfield

SAVE THE MCKENZIE

The new year is a time for resolutions. Hopefully, the Forest Service has made some, as the McKenzie District continues to auction off ancient forests along the McKenzie River to the highest bidder. This threatened river supports not only endangered wild salmon and bull

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