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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 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 trout, but a healthy and thriving recreation industry, bringing in millions of dollars into Lane County and providing a myriad of economic opportunities for small business.

It is stunning to think that the Forest Service is continuing to further degrade upstream water quality by logging some of the last remaining native forest left in the watershed. These forests are very important to the health of the watershed and the economic security of many small businesses.

I don't know many people who enjoy recreating in a clearcut or fishing in a silted stream. It's time for the Forest Service to get with the 21st century and make a resolution to preserve the remaining public old-growth forests that make the McKenzie such a special place.

Mary Gatlin  
Eugene

### HIRED GUNS

Corporations, in league with corrupt government, have turned many federal and state agencies away from their

mission of providing for the public good. The Bush administration has embedded industry lobbyists in policy-making positions who continue to work for their old masters while drawing government salaries and benefits. Although their current compensation doesn't match their old salaries, you can be certain that their "deferred compensation" on leaving the administration will more than compensate for this in the same way that it has for former representatives and senators who served special interests.

Dean Richmond  
Waldport

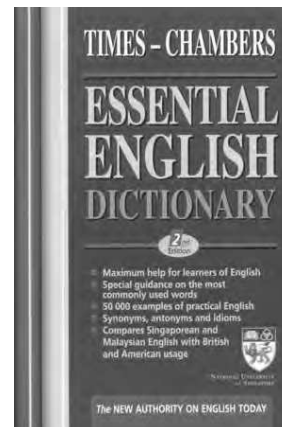
### WORD ABUSE

For crying out loud!! Would someone please give Alan Pittman a dictionary instead of a spell-checker?

One does not "reign" in abusive cops; one does not "rein" over a divisive council. Mr. Pittman has made this mistake so consistently, for so many years, I honestly believe he doesn't know the difference.

While we're at it — you can't "site" controversial auditor models; you can't "cite" a building near the river (unless it is there illegally).

You run a pretty good newspaper. For Mr. Pittman to be continually ungrammatical is both astonishing and disappointing. It leaves one with the impression that nobody



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