

— more than a third of the population. Cancer, asthma, Alzheimer's, autism, birth defects, developmental disabilities, diabetes, endometriosis, infertility, MS and Parkinson's are becoming increasingly common.

In the 1940s, the lifetime risk of breast cancer was one in 22. Today's risk is one in eight and rising. It is claimed that Eugene's Toxics Right To Know law is duplicative of other regulations. If so, then complying with it can't possibly be the kind of burden that some businesses claim it is. To the extent that it's not duplicative, it is essential if we have any respect for the ultimate property right, the sanctity of our bodies. Keeping our bodies inviolable, especially for health and reproduction, should be among our most basic assumptions and values. Yet human and environmental health are being violated daily by the trespass of tens of thousands of chemical substances.

If we have any rights at all, we have a right to know what those chemicals are, and who is using them, in what quantities, for what purposes. Only thus do we have any hope of ultimately assessing where the chemicals in our bodies come from, and whether we will permit such chemical trespass to continue without the recompense required of other forms of trespass. Right now, some people are profiting from the use of toxic chemicals. And the rest of us are paying the price, in more than money.

Robert Roth
Eugene

NOT IN VAIN

Whew, I'm relieved. I was afraid that no one had read my 12/30 letter giving Democrats advice about how to regain the White House. Well the responses from Steve Johnson, Gibril Gillard and Bill Durst solved that. Too bad all three are so angry that they can't think straight.

Of course Republicans care about the brave American soldiers and Iraqis who have died in that conflict. We all should. But we should also know that those deaths have not been in vain. Is the freedom of 25 million people worth nothing? Is creating a democracy in the middle of the troubled Middle East worth nothing? Did you not see the young Iraqi woman hugging the U.S. soldier's mother at the State of the Union address? Did you not see the photographs of the Iraqis defying the terrorists and voting? Those pictures said it all.

Oh, and you are still whining about the election and the exit polls. Hello! Did you not read the news about the research done by the

polling companies? They concluded that their polling was flawed and that the election results were accurate. And why no outrage about the Democrats who slashed the tires of vans that were to be used to transport Republican voters in Wisconsin? Oops, I forgot. Wisconsin went for Kerry.

Your hatred of our president does nothing but cloud your own judgment. You've been sulking for four years. Get over it. Our country is strong and the wisdom of the voters should not be so readily dismissed just because you don't like the election results.

Remember, a mind is like a parachute. It only functions when open.

Randy Kolb
Eugene

STRIP AWAY

The recent debate over the appropriateness of having strippers at a bachelor party is getting silly. People need to lighten up. A bachelor party stripper should not be a prerequisite for male bonding, but neither should it be an issue of fidelity or commitment. If it is, then the relationship in question is likely in serious trouble for bigger, more important reasons, such as insecurity and/or compatibility.

Guys, if your partner is the type of person who would be truly bothered by you seeing a stripper, but you're the type of guy who sees it as a last chance at freedom, then you might not be compatible. If your partner is more than bothered, perhaps even feels threatened, then you ought to seriously ask why she feels so insecure in your relationship. What really gets me is Alby Thoumsin (2/3) calling it immature, as if the activity of watching a stripper were actually taken seriously by the participants. Of course it's immature — it's a form of adolescent fun, like women reading romance novels or watching Lifetime network movies.

When my time comes, I hope to marry someone who encourages me to have fun — and I will wholeheartedly support a male stripper at her bachelorette party, too.

Brian Stutzman
Eugene

NATIVE SPECIES

In response to Pamela's letter (2/4) about the return of the gray wolf to Oregon, I would like to point out a few facts about gray wolves. First, Defenders of Wildlife has put together a compensation plan for any ranchers who suffer any livestock losses due to wolf depredation. Second, in Montana, where there has been a successful reintroduction program, 10 cattle and three sheep were

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Laurie Anderson

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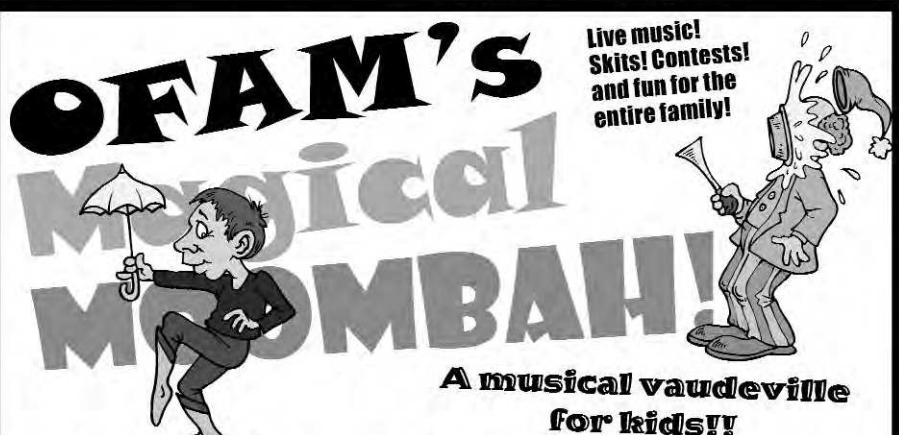
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