

flighting parties to stabilize, balance, optimize and probably (in most cases) reduce their populations over a long-term transition that is fair to intervening generations. Perhaps they already include these provisions, but if they do, it is certainly not common knowledge. Without such a recognition and formal agreements to include the 4-D's, I see little hope for a permanent resolution to so much of the world's tragic conflict.

M. Boyd Wilcox
Corvallis

TAD HYPOCRITICAL

Try to imagine, if you will, the howls of outrage the Ever Angrys would have unleashed if a Democratic administration had been caught using public monies to bribe journalists to spread blatant administration propaganda.

Try to imagine, if you will, the cacophony of phony "talking points" the autocorprophages of Faux News and hate radio would have bombarded our ears with if a Democratic White House had allowed a homosexual prostitute (Oh, excuse me — I mean "escort") with a false identity and working for a fictitious "news agency" access to presidential press conferences to parrot those same "talking points" back to the president in the guise of "questions."

Now try to imagine that either or both of those little items would *not* have caused Republican congressmen to call for the im-

peachment of the president, loudly wailing about the moral depravity and lack of values of the Democrats.

And now, if you've a really good imagination, try to imagine a Republichristian reading this little note and *not* being outraged that I am "just helping the terrorists" by not supporting the president (who, after all, was sent directly from the Right Hand of God to lead this country out of the Liberal Wilderness). Or, even more improbable, try and imagine a Republichristian reading this little note and actually saying to himself, "You know, he has a point here. Can it possibly be that we in the GOP have been a tad hypocritical?"

And, for the wildest imaginary trip of all, try and picture the Republichristians heeding Jesus who said, and said more than once, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Jamie Selko
Eugene

LESS IS MORE

Come on now. If security is what we are after, then how can we undermine the very bedrock of our nation's foundation? Cutting the social programs that separate us from the countries we supposedly are helping is hypocrisy in the highest regard. The rule of law is only followed by persons who can educate their children, feed their families and feel safe in their own neighborhoods.

These cuts make us less secure, less American and less of the democracy we are trying to provide to the rest of the world. Stop this group of ideologues from corralling the last of the world's oil reserves and make them attend to the realities of a changing world. Less is more.

Tim Kendall
Eugene

FUND EDUCATION!

Cutting education funding only perpetuates the cycle of poverty and ignorance. Without education access many families will not have the opportunity to change their socioeconomic status and are destined to remain stuck in a cycle that is counter productive for them personally and for society as a whole. It is imperative that cuts to education be stopped before American children are left behind, lacking the education to compete for top-dollar job positions.

Children in other countries, where the focus on education is a priority, are pulling away from America's children in standardized testing programs that measure the effectiveness of the educational system. Please stop the madness. No more budget cuts to education — before it's too late.

M. Lah Payne
Springfield

ANIMAL LOGIC

Ashlee Peters (2/3, 2/17) shows just how obnoxiously anthropomorphic people can be. I'm all for certain animal "rights," but let's be honest: They are not humans. This is not a matter of humans having a "soul" that animals do not, or of humans having some greater intrinsic worth than animals. This is a simple fact of nature. Humans are a class of animals, the ones who happen to be on top of the food chain.

The moral and legal rules we have created in order to make human society possible do not apply to other sorts of animals. By affording them any "rights" at all (such as laws against cruelty) we are doing them a favor, nothing more — but the real reason we do so is to appease people like Ms. Peters and organizations who share her views, which helps make human society run more smoothly. If we are to consider killing livestock "murder," then we ought to prosecute mountain lions for "murdering" deer. After all, if animals can be murdered, then they must be able to commit murder as well; otherwise there is a logical inconsistency.

Killing animals makes us feel bad, and thus we find it regrettable. However, let's not forget that it is only regrettable in the context of our particular human moral code, created by humans and for humans, when we mistakenly apply it to non-humans.

Brian Stutzman
Eugene

commentary BY MARK FRISBEE

I Am Vegetarian,
Hear Me Roar
Bribery as a last resort

I don't claim to be a writer or a journalist. I am a salesman by trade and an activist at heart. But I figure if Sally Sheklow can write about being a lesbian, then I can write about being a vegetarian.

For the last seven years my passion has been expressed by giving voice to the voiceless and defending the rights of those who cannot defend themselves. My passion is animal rights.

Animal rights may not be your cup o' tea, and I don't blame you. It takes a lot to think about someone other than yourself. It's harder to live a compassionate lifestyle than it is to hit the drive-thru at McDonalds. It's hard to look at a prepackaged cut of beef wrapped neatly in cellophane and make the connection that it once was a cute cow, an animal subjected to a miserable life on a factory farm who suffered a great deal while it was pumped full of hormones, then brutally slaughtered.

I have tried everything I can think of to get through to people: debating, protesting, sidewalk demonstrations, graphic pictures and videos. Some of it has worked. Often it has fallen on deaf ears. So now I'm resorting to shameless bribery!

It's contest time, boys and girls! I have a **\$100 gift certificate towards a rafting trip on the McKenzie River with High Country Expeditions** that could be yours if you answer a few questions. The gift certificate is only valid until May 14 so if you win, plan on freezing your ass off in the frigid waters of the McKenzie. I know from experience the guides at High Country will take good care of you.

Whoever answers the most questions correctly claims the prize! A purely arbitrary decision based on your answer to Question 11 will determine the winner in the case of a tie.

While you try to answer these questions, I hope you will learn a little something about the plight of our animal friends. Take a moment to consider the impact your life has on the world around you. By adopting a vegetarian lifestyle (even a few days a week) your body, the environment and the animals will thank you. For help with these answers, pick up a Vegetarian Starter Kit outside of Flicks n' Picks outside the downtown post office, on UO campus, or visit www.peta.org

1. In the U.S. ____ animals are killed per hour for food.
a. 3 million b. 100 thousand c. 10 thousand
2. On factory farms, chickens have their ____ sliced off with a hot blade, pigs have their ____ chopped off and their ____ pulled with pliers, and bulls and pigs are castrated – all without ____.
3. Tropical rainforests are being decimated to create grazing land for cattle. The space equivalent to ____ is destroyed every minute.
a. 7 football fields b. George W. Bush's brain c. A Hummer H2
4. In one year an estimated ____ dogs and cats will be euthanized in animal shelters across the county. (To help this problem, spay and neuter your companion animal and **do not** buy animals from pet stores! Support your local animal shelter.)
a. 1 million b. 7 million c. 13.5 million
5. Animals raised for food produce the excrement of ____ the entire human population – 87,000 pounds per second! (Farms have now replaced factories as the biggest polluters of America's waterways.)
a. Equal to b. 50 times c. 130 times

6. In the U.S., animals raised for food are fed ____ of the corn, wheat and other grains we grow. The world's cattle alone consume a quantity of food equal to the caloric needs of 8.7 billion people – more than the entire human population.
a. None b. 70 percent c. 30 percent
7. The animal welfare act does not apply to animals raised for food. True__ False __
8. Pick four famous people who never eat animals:
Pamela Anderson, Moby, Natalie Portman, Alec Baldwin, Shania Twain, George W. Bush
9. Meat-eaters have nearly ____ times the incidents of high blood pressure than vegetarians.
a. 10 b. 5 c. 3
10. What common animal product that supposedly "does our bodies good" has been linked to common health problems (runny noses, allergies, ear infections, recurrent bronchitis, asthma, etc.), is laced with foreign allergy-inciting bovine protein, and often contains hydrocarbon pesticides and other chemical contaminants?
a. Sausage b. Eggs c. Milk
11. Did you learn anything answering these questions? If yes, how do you feel about what you learned?