

point of view that isn't everyone's cup of tea. For Max I respect his concerns and I am grateful he is willing to share them. He at the same time should respect and support everyone's right to a different point of view.

George G. Brooks
Eugene

FLUORIDE FOLLY

In response to Leslie Weinstein's letter "Dental Tragedy" (3/17), her assertive statements concerning fluoridation remind me of many similarly emphatic "facts" delivered to an uninformed and gullible public by the Bush regime. Long on certainty, short on truth. The fact is, surveys from many countries around the world, including the U.S., comparing fluoridated vs. non-fluoridated areas show that dental decay is not only no better where fluoride is used, but is sometimes worse.

The initial "studies" back in the 1940s that allowed this toxic by-product of the fertilizer and aluminum industries to be put in our precious water systems were so outrageously biased and bogus it's hard to believe they were taken seriously. But then, think "Clear Skies" and it becomes all too clear. Government by, for and of the corporations is nothing new.

Fluoride proponents are currently trying to add this non-FDA approved drug to much of Oregon's drinking water. For more information about the dangers of fluoride (and the mercury, lead, etc. in the actual material used to fluoridate), check out www.slweb.org/50reasons.html or www.keepers-of-the-well.org. Or read *The Fluoride Deception* by Christopher Bryson.

There is never a good time to add toxic waste to our water. Get informed, and then get active. Once it's in our water (and us), we'll probably never get it out.

Richard Baynton
Eugene

KUDOS TO EW

I wanted to thank you and your staff for the excellent coverage of the annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (3/3, 3/10) and other environmental issues. Your coverage portrayed well the broad range of exciting topics and conveyed these topics well to the readership. I also applaud your article on Marianne Dugan, Lauren Regan, and Brenna Bell. These women are true unsung heroines who work tirelessly for human and environmental rights, but don't get enough recognition.

It has really become apparent that the *Weekly* is doing some excellent investigative journalism, such as the Baxter plant

cover story (2/3), that is being avoided by other local papers. I commend you and your staff for becoming a true forum for community issues, and other media that is avoided by the mainstream outlets.

Jonathan Evans
UO School of Law

BAD CHOICE

Freudian Slip was dismayed to read the Date Girl column (3/10) in which she replies to someone who writes about severe psychological problems. Freudian Slip chose to sponsor Date Girl because we had found the author to be a fun, light-hearted and even-handed dating advisor. (Her column has appeared in *Seattle Weekly* for several years.) Since *EW* has a choice of several Date Girl columns to run in any given issue, we were surprised and disappointed that the editors chose to run that particular column.

Our deepest apologies to *Eugene Weekly* readers.

Lisa and Norman Read
Owners, Freudian Slip

TIME TO PAY UP

I really hate to say this, but I told you so about the Legislature's illegal action to terminate the cost of living adjustments for PERS retirees. The Supreme Court stated that the legislators did not just bend the rule of law; they broke it. It has been true for a long time in the U.S. that a contract is a contract. Once made, one party to it cannot unilaterally alter it without the other party's agreement.

And, you know, those tough guys and gals in Salem didn't ask for the agreement of the PERS retirees. What they did was to make a clean break with the rule of law and take the money. Now the PERS Board needs to figure out what to do with the \$1.5 billion they squirreled away knowing that this day was coming. First on the list better be to pay back what they took or they will face additional legal action.

Gerry Merritt
Eugene

DAM IT ALL

Fact: Most rivers in the U.S. run from north to south. From the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, the water will drop approximately 3,000 feet. If one was to go up north — perhaps even up into Canada — and dam up the tributary streams of the U.S. main rivers, these dams would be small in width but built as high as possible. At its maximum height the water would be siphoned over (east or west) to a tributary of a different major river — and the water would end up in a completely different part

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