

middle of some ridiculous wine article. I hardly picture our old boy spending much time reflecting over the various nuances of a half a glass of purple woo woo yup juice from grapes grown in Whocareswhere, Ariz.

Hunter left us because it was time. He gets a pass on all the suicide theory crap. He earned that. We've lost one of the last great American patriots. Goodbye Hunter. Thanks for everything.

Dave Peterson
Eugene

RIGHT TO LIFE?

Where were your "right to life" morals when you ordered the bombing of innocent Iraqi civilians? Where were these morals when you sent our troops to die in a strategic war for oil? Where are your ethics when you condemn innocents to a life of entrapment, poverty, fear, and pain? You allow the imprisonment and torture of harmless Iraqi civilians, withhold national funding of social services that benefit the weak, poor and hungry, and ignore the cries of nations in turmoil.

Don't expect the educated masses to believe that you wish nothing more than to uphold the sanctity of life. Such hypocrisy is appalling.

Heather Ladd
Eugene

NEW ENERGY FUTURE.

The Oregon Fair Energy Bill (SB 527) is a good step towards the New Energy Future (see story 3/24). It prioritizes renewable energy sources over fossil fuels. From the soldiers dying in Iraq to the caribou threatened in the Arctic, from asthma attacks to electricity bills, from gas pump prices to red-alert ozone days — we constantly face the repercussions of fossil fuel consumption. Fossil fuel addiction is our ailment, and the New Energy Future is our cure.

There exists ingenious technology that would lower natural gas prices, create thousands of new jobs in Oregon, reduce global warming emissions, and help alleviate a variety of public health problems. This is the New Energy Future: wind, solar, and geothermal electricity, and energy efficiency technology. The only catch is that there are too many politicians who want to give us more of the same.

Our leaders should support any bill that prioritizes clean renewable energy sources, and should oppose any bill that subsidizes fossil fuels. After SB 527, we will be faced with the National Dirty Energy bill that is approaching the senate during the next few weeks.

The National Dirty Energy bill, (as opposed to the Oregon Fair Energy Bill), would dish out billions in subsidies to oil, gas, coal, and nuclear power, while doing almost nothing

to support renewable energy sources, or energy efficiency standards.

Erin Cianchette
Eugene

CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The new budget proposed by George Bush would cut federal Pell grants for college students. I want to go to college, Mr. Bush. It also cuts education money for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. Please write your senators and ask them to vote against this budget. No Child Left Behind my foot.

Peter Howland
Springfield

THE BIG H

EW takes on the salmon problem (3/3), interviews the bearded professor who regurgitates the standard four H's of limiting factors: habitat, hydropower, harvest and (gasp) hatcheries. As a cottage industry many family-wage jobs generate from pounding home the point that hatcheries are a big part of the salmon problem. So why so many hatcheries?

In 1958, Jerry Bauer, Umpqua District fisheries biologist, explained to his summer help why he devoted efforts to sharpening the hatchery practices at Rock Creek, a salmon and steelhead hatchery. Wild fish are obviously best, but are totally habitat dependent. Due to forces way beyond Jerry's control, the existing rate of habitat loss would eventually prove catastrophic to Umpqua River salmonids. A half-century later Rock Creek Hatchery, just one example in Oregon, still coexists with residual populations of naturally produced fish and annually affords a substantial level of downstream benefits to consumers and sportsmen.

Today we have Measure 37 which will eventually make every landowner an arbiter whether salmon habitat protection is worth the costs. As tax time approaches note under IRS deductions that the government still provides financial incentive to reproduce abundantly. The really big H in the salmon problem is humans.

Max Smith
Junction City

FLUORIDE PLUS

Leslie Weinstein wrote (3/17) of the "need" for fluoridation of EWEB's water supply. Why stop there? There is undoubtedly a large segment of our population that is not being treated for depression. Answer: Prozac in the water supply. Insurance company won't pay for expensive erectile dysfunction medication? Answer: Viagra in the water, paid for by ratepayers.

Oral fluoride is only a significant benefit for developing teeth. It is paid for by Medicaid and most insurance companies. For

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