

people without insurance it is still very cheap. It would be cheaper for EWEB to buy prescription fluoride for the uninsured than to institute a water fluoridation program.

What about microbreweries, nurseries, etc. that need unfluoridated water? Shouldn't the ratepayer pay for equipment to remove the added fluoride? I suspect a good deal of the tooth decay has a lot more to do with poor brushing habits, poor nutrition and too many Big Gulps than with lack of fluoridation. Treating a specific population with the appropriate dosage of a medicine is good public health policy. Inappropriate dosing of an entire population who do not need and who have not consented to treatment is not.

John Proctor
Eugene Pharmacist

INDUSTRIAL GUNK

Oregonians are proud to think for ourselves about what we put in our bodies. As a city, the population of Eugene is proud to take its own stand about toxic waste. But the Oregon Legislature is poised to vote on a bill that could force us to drink industrial waste.

Here's what's happening: Back in 1977, the citizens of Eugene showed a lot of smarts when they voted against fluoridating the water supply. Since then it's been proven that this industrial gunk is very different than pharmaceutical grade fluoride, and that fluoridation carries a number of health risks. Therefore, in Eugene it's up to each person to decide whether to topically apply fluoride.

But on Feb. 23, the Water Committee for the Oregon House voted to forward HB 2025 to the whole House. If HB 2025 and a similar bill in the Senate (SB 539) pass, then every city with a population over 10,000 would be required to fluoridate the water supply if the funding is other than from ratepayers.

Forced fluoridation is liquid bullying that drowns Eugene's right to say "no" to fluoridation. For those who can't afford bottled or specially filtered water, fluoridation also engulfs our individual human right to clean water.

I'm disappointed to report that one of the members of that Water Committee is from Eugene, psychologist and Rep. Phil Barnhart. Our human rights group found him reluctant to hear criticisms of fluoridation. He waffled and then voted for fluoridation, when he ought to have taken leadership to defend Eugene.

Contact your Oregon representative and senator to oppose HB 2025 and SB 539. Read up on the web about fluoridation such as at www.keepersofthewell.com If citizens who oppose fluoridation want to network, my e-mail address is oaks@mindfreedom.org

David Oaks, director
MindFreedom Intl.

SCREWING THE POOR

I filed an official complaint with Oregon's attorney general, asking for that office's help ending the institutional discrimination against the very poor. I pointed out that Oregon's Constitution forbids anyone from conducting business from a place of privilege. I pointed out that the professional unregulated monopolies (doctors, dentists, lawyers), taken as a single entity, constituted the largest business in Oregon. I also pointed out that that unregulated monopoly was operating from a place of privilege, in violation of the Constitution.

The AG's official reply was that they "only enforce existing law." I had made the point

that no law which contradicted the Constitution was supportable, to no avail.

It is obvious to me, a non-lawyer, that the state's largest business is a monopoly, and that that monopoly delivers vital services to the very poor in an utterly immoral way. It can be shown that the very poor are suffering because of the intentional discrimination against them. The AG is obligated to protect the people of Oregon. Who else protects the poor and powerless, the friendless and the homeless?

The rich get richer, the poor go to bed with aching teeth and impossible to pay legal or medical or mental health bills. The very poor have been screwed for so long their suffering has become invisible. And legal.

Hugh Massengill
Eugene

WHOREABLE

Let's play a visualization game. Picture, if you will, that a few years back, that the Clinton people were letting a male prostitute into the White House almost every day for two years. Then let's imagine that Clinton was letting this hooker attend high-level meetings and giving him access to highly classified material. Let's also say that this man was a fake journalist and served as a propagandist shill with the White House press core.

Of course, if Clinton were implicated in such an egregious scandal, he would have been hounded by 24/7 press coverage and crucified on the White House lawn by Republican mobs with torches and pitchforks. But wait — this is the exact situation that was just discovered with the Bush White House and isn't it incredible, that except for a couple of editorials on the Jeff Gannon story, the U.S. media has virtually stricken the story from the face of the Earth?

What else is new? Whether it is Bush's lies used to wage war in Iraq, the outing of a CIA operative, Cheney's oil buddies crafting US energy policy in secret meetings or other treasonous actions, the U.S. media gives the Bush administration a pass on everything.

It shouldn't surprise us that the corporate military/industrial owned "mainstream" media, which receives deregulation and other quid pro quo deals from Bush, as well as profiting greatly from his empire wars, behaves the way it does, but it is a shame to see the once noble Forth Estate turned into a whorehouse.

Gerry Rempel
Eugene

PIRATE ACCOUNTS

"Resistance is futile." Those Borgian words echoed in my head as I realized that Bush was warning me when he said "I have a message for every American who is 55 or older. For you the Social Security system will not change in any way."

Apparently, being 54, I had drawn the short straw. What to do? I asked my bank's financial advisor about IRAs, and what to invest in to make my "private account," oops, I mean "personal account" grow. (I guess the word was changed because it sounded too much like pirate). She gave me the name of a hot fund that had been doing well since Bush had been in power.

I was leery, since the last tip I got from them lost me 35 percent of my investment in a fund company called Putnam that had been found guilty of insider cream-sucking.

I checked out the holdings of the new hot fund. Well, look at that! At the top of the list, Halliburton and TXU, a Texas energy com-

pany. This week I will plunk down my cash and "prepare to be assimilated" into Bush's gravy train.

I finally get it! Invest in war and it becomes a good thing. Support our troops and keep them over there, spinning taxpayer straw into investor gold. God bless American investors.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

IT'S JUST A MOVIE

I usually will choose a movie or video based on word of mouth or who the director is. I read the reviews in the local papers, mostly to see what the movie is about. I understand that there are three categories that I like to judge a film I have just viewed. Enjoyment, quality of the cinematography and scripting.

Many high quality films I have seen only once because, despite the script and photography, I did not enjoy the film enough to see it again. I do not need the public or film critics dictating what I am supposed to enjoy. My answer to them is "it's just a movie." I was appalled when *Saving Private Ryan* was released and the locals cried that one wasn't a patriot unless they go see it. (I spent two of my seven years of military duty in Southeast Asia). It's just a movie. If it touched you, good. That's what films do sometimes.

That aside, Ms. Wadsworth has released her top 10 most original films of 2004 (2/24). Original? #5 is a sequel and #9 is a remake. Oh, but then this is the critic who in 1994 reviewed a Steven Seagal movie and praised it for its "environmental statements." Seagal blew up oil wells and half of Alaska, in *On Deadly Ground*. Woof!

Colin Campbell
Eugene

GODDESS ON FOOT

I just returned to Oregon after spending four weeks on the Oaxacan Costa Chica. The native women there walk more than they drive and they all look so healthy and sexy.

I only came back because I ran out of money. Watching the goddess drive down the road doesn't ring my mission bells anymore.

Lester Peel
Springfield

OPEN TO GUILT

A reply To Mark Frisbee (commentary, 3/17) from a member of his target audience: I am not a vegetarian, nor will I likely ever be. Though I am well aware of the despicable practices of much of the U.S. food industry, I continue to eat meat. However, I disagree with those practices and hope to see them reformed and properly regulated. I do not take any action because the issue is not my own personal passion. Nevertheless, like many liberal, educated college-town dwellers, I can be persuaded/guilty into some amount of active support for such causes.

Let me commend Mr. Frisbee for taking a step beyond moralsuasion. Finding creative methods to engage an audience is a positive step. I am especially susceptible to appeals to my greed. Unfortunately, I stopped caring about his comments as soon as he stated, "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." He frames the issue as compassion vs. ignorant heartlessness and then despairs over the small impact he has made in winning hearts and

minds.

I was turned off by these remarks because of their open disdain for non-like-minded people. I often find myself thinking that people who don't agree with me are complete idiots, and if they only knew the facts, they would immediately come over to my side. However, rationally, I reluctantly acknowledge that they are not all idiots, and if I am actually trying to persuade them, I hide my disdain.

I want liberal activists to succeed. I want to be persuaded by them. However, I am shallow. When you insult my intelligence and compassion, I stop taking you seriously. More importantly, such conduct reflects poorly on your movement. Please — pander to me and my friends in the masses. We'll give you money and boycott stuff.

Eli Van Camp
Eugene

ARROGANT HYPOCRISY

Once again the ChristiaNazis, the White House and Congress are at it in Florida trying to take away a person's right to control their own lives and deaths. No one was in a better position to know Terry's thoughts for this kind of situation than Schiavo's husband, and he has been villified and dismissed. Since when do the rights of the husband lose to the rights of the parents of an adult?

I used to be a Republican years ago; until the party was co-opted by self-righteous zealots who loathe the poor and infirmed because they interfere with their tax cuts. I used to be a Republican when state's rights and minimum government intrusion into our lives was the Republican mantra. Not so anymore.

This situation clearly makes the case that every person over the age of 18 must have a legal and notarized Medical Power of Attorney. Otherwise, their stated wishes can be blocked by manipulative religious dogmatism and interference from those who have perverted an American's right to control their own destiny; and death.

The Republicans, Bush, and his supporters stand for just one thing: arrogant, self-serving hypocrisy. If Jesus saw what these zealots were doing, the Earth would be covered by a tsunami of his vomit.

L. Michael Adler
Creswell

SCARY SITE

A few reasons why EWEB is not a good site for a hospital:

Hospitals do not belong on rivers. What if we had a catastrophic flood that inundated both facilities? In 1964, there was 4 feet of water over the bank at the EWEB Steam Plant.

During that year, five out of the six dams were already constructed with just over 900,000 acre feet of storage capacity. Fall Creek was added in 1966, which only added 125,000 acre feet. Had Fall Creek already been operational, USACE estimates that would have lowered the river at Eugene by only .8 foot.

Would you want to be under the knife when a train came by and blew its whistle or vibrated the building?

It is also on the outside bend of the river, and has other site constraints that make one of the most functionally driven facilities a nightmare to design.

David Rodriguez
Springfield