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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

people die from them! It's the American way, right? Dig out the commerce clause of the Constitution one more time!

For those of you who trot out the tired old saw about drug abuse by marijuana cardholders, remember this — there is always a degree of abuse of drugs by medicinal drug users — but, for crying out loud, look at Rush Limbaugh, Jerry Falwell, Jeb Bush's daughter, and the Bush twins abusing legal drugs, illegal drugs, and alcohol — just for starters. (All documented in mainstream media, so no howling from Corpo sympathizers or timid PC liberals, please).

The venal, greedy, violent hypocrisy of this administration is beyond belief, and the agenda is right in front of us — if you choose to see. Americans are paying the ignorance tax right now, as we speak. You'll tell your grandchildren "we put them into power and then did nothing" — if you live long enough.

Michael Anderson
Oakridge

BACK OFF, FEDS

It seems apparent that Oregon has a methamphetamine problem. And I don't know if there is a real solution to it. I see the "collateral damage" caused by this as the real issue. The thefts, violence, abuses in general that this drug creates are appalling.

But there is another issue that I personally find equally appalling. The Supreme Court just upheld the DEA/sheriff bust of two women for medical marijuana cultivation, use and possession. In making its ruling the court cited a case that involved a farmer growing wheat for "personal consumption" that was separate from the wheat for sale (hence the commerce part of the law that enabled the court to decide it's merits) as part of interstate commerce.

In the case of these two women who use marijuana to cope with their illnesses, the courts ruled that the "potential" for the interstate commerce of the "locally grown" and used substance makes it open for the federal law to step in and judge this case. Yes, I do disagree with the honorable justices decision here.

While the "potential" for interstate distribution may be evident, the fact that neither person was ever charged with or convicted of such illicit use of a controlled substance, should have been grounds for a exception to the precedence. There was no grounds to expect or sus-

pect that these people had intentions to distribute their crop. In its own decision, the court cited the fact that both women obtained their medical marijuana without charge or payments to anyone. The use of this was by the women themselves, with no others involved.

I agree that drug problems exist here in Oregon (and I'm sure also in California), but let's not throw out the baby with the bath water. Marijuana for medicinal purposes has been allowed in 10 states. The federal government needs to back off and allow states to regulate these laws themselves.

Fred Marsico
Corvallis

SHORT STICK

Ninety percent of Americans are getting the short end of the economic stick, while the top 10 percent — especially the top .1 percent — are doing incredibly well. For the middle class it's been a slow downhill battle for about 30 years.

Not only is the lower 90 percent struggling financially, they're working longer hours, over-ridden with debt, and losing a variety of benefits. Governments are not doing any better — overwhelmed with population growth, going into greater debt, and unable to meet their existing needs — without adding any more growth.

Remember trickle-down economics? It made great sense to those people at the top — and it still does! The "lower 90 percent" should get a clue! Businesses have been able to influence government to make it harder for the working class to get ahead financially, while allowing the wealthy to skyrocket.

The lower 90 percent want to catch up to the rich, but it's not nearly possible. Limited oil and water, along with several other resources, will soon restrict our ability to grow in human numbers, economy, and consumption.

Then there are the rest of the world's people — they want to catch up too! Add several times more demand upon gas, water, food, and trees from *billions* of poor people, and resources soon run low.

We need to distribute wealth and resources much more evenly enact our own growth limits before over-using what resources we have left, and lessen our pollution by living and consuming more locally. Good luck!

Patrick Bronson
Eugene



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