



Local activists are working to save the Nectar Way forest from development.

# news Briefs

## BUILDER WON'T SELL FOREST

For more than a year, a neighborhood group has fought to save a 40-acre plot of forested land between Dillard Road and Nectar Way from development. Now, the city wants re-negotiate a deal to buy the plot, but it may be too late.

The land in question is one of the biggest unprotected parcels of high-quality habitat in Eugene, containing Amazon Creek headwaters, seasonal wetlands, upland wildlife habitat and several endangered plants. City of Eugene Parks Director Johnny Medlin calls the plot "the most pristine piece of land outside of public ownership in Eugene." The Parks Department is interested in incorporating the land into the Ridgeline Trail network.

The city has tried, and failed, to buy the plot before. Just as the city was poised to purchase the property in the spring of 2004, DDA Oregonia sold it to developer Joe Green. City officials maintain that they made a good-faith effort to obtain the plot, but DDA Oregonia local manager Munir Katul told neighborhood activists that the city never expressed an earnest interest in buying it. Regardless, Green won the bid and now owns

the property. He later refused the city's offer to buy the plot at the appraised price of \$430,000.

On July 18, the Eugene City Council passed a motion to direct the city manager to re-negotiate with Green about purchasing the property. Funds could come from city coffers as well as the neighborhood group working to preserve the plot, local nonprofits and a federal grant. Councilor Betty Taylor, who introduced the motion, feels that the city should do whatever it can to preserve the parcel. "It's wooded land with rare growth, the kind of forest that we don't have much left of," she says.

Southeast Neighborhood Association President Kevin Matthews says that the land is especially critical because it contains Amazon Creek headwaters. "It's a really important natural resource area, and we'd love to see it protected one way or another," he says. "I'm glad that the City Council has endorsed a stronger focus on solving that."

But on Aug. 15, Green's attorney, Mark Hoyt, wrote an e-mail stating that the developer is not interested in selling the entire parcel; he is only willing to negotiate selling a portion of the land around the stream corridor. "Without a willing seller, there's not anything more that we can do," Medlin says.

If the city's effort to purchase the plot fails, Green is likely to pursue his preliminary plan to construct 105 to 111 new houses on the property.

For more information about the effort to preserve the Nectar Way forest, contact Lisa Warnes at [ksl@efn.org](mailto:ksl@efn.org) — *Kera Abraham*

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

Occam's Razor: the principle which states that the simplest explanation is generally best.

--YOU MUST ALSO BELIEVE THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABU GHRAIB REALLY DOES REST WITH A MERE HANDFUL OF BAD APPLES--

--AND THAT REPORTS FROM FBI AGENTS OF ABUSE AT GUANTANAMO ARE SIMPLY NOT CREDIBLE--

I BET THE M.S.M. QUOTED THEM COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTEXT!

WHAT IF BY "SHACKLED TO THE FLOOR IN A POOL OF FILTH" THEY ACTUALLY MEANT "RELAXING IN A BIG COMFY BED"?

IN ORDER TO BELIEVE THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT SANCTION THE USE OF TORTURE-- WHICH IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT!

ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATELY PUNISHED, END OF STORY.

I SEE NO NEED TO EVER SPEAK OF THE MATTER AGAIN.

YOU'D HAVE TO BE A TERROR-LOVING LIBERAL ELITIST TO SUGGEST OTHERWISE!

--AND THAT THE BRUTAL DEATHS OF PRISONERS AT BAGRAM AND GAIIM CAN ONLY BE BLAMED ON A FURTHER HANDFUL OF BAD APPLES--

--AND THAT LOW-RANKING BAD APPLES AT EACH FACILITY JUST HAPPENED TO DEVELOP THE SAME SPECIFIC TECHNIQUES OF ABUSE AND HUMILIATION, INDEPENDENT OF ONE ANOTHER.

FORGET OCCAM'S RAZOR--THIS IS MORE LIKE OCCAM'S SLEDGEHAMMER.

IT'S LIKE I ALWAYS SAY--THE MOST CONVOLUTED AND UNLIKELY EXPLANATION IS USUALLY BEST.

I THINK THE FACT THAT WE EVEN KNOW ABOUT THESE DEATHS--

IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE CRAZY COINCIDENCES!

--IS PROOF THE SYSTEM WORKS!

AND ANYTHING WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT-- DIDN'T HAPPEN!

OR IT WOULD BE, IF IT WERE TRUE, WHICH OF COURSE IT IS NOT.

AS LONG AS IT FAVORS US.

WHICH IT ALMOST ALWAYS DOES.

ODDLY ENOUGH.

NEXT: EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION-- OR FREE SURPRISE VACATION?

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## BREAK FROM RECRUITING

How will the teens and young adults in our community deal effectively with ubiquitous military recruiters in schools and on the phone? Eugene peace activists are doing some recruiting of their own for a regional counter-recruitment camp to be held Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 near Goldendale, Wash.

PeaceWorks and CALC's Committee for Countering Military Recruitment are promoting the Northwest "Not Your Soldier" student activist training camp for youth age 13 to 22. The cost of the camp is \$25-\$250 sliding scale, with scholarships available.

Registration includes meals, housing, transportation, activities and workshops. "The focus of this event is to empower young people to return to high school and college campuses ready to oppose military recruitment and work to demilitarize their schools," says Phil Weaver of PeaceWorks.

Sessions will include training in nonviolent direct action, basic rights, issues of race in military recruitment, guerilla theater, public speaking, working with adult allies, alternatives to the military, student privacy, conscientious objection and the draft.

The camps are a joint project of the Ruckus Society, Code Pink, War Resisters League, Teen Peace and the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment. For more information or to register, visit [www.notyoursoldier.org](http://www.notyoursoldier.org) or e-mail [countermilitary@yahoo.com](mailto:countermilitary@yahoo.com) or call 343-8548 ext. 1.

## LOGICAL & PUZZLING

Eugene actuary and puzzler Mark Danburg-Wyld may be the first person in the U.S. to personally create brand-new, com-

puter-generated brainteasers called sudoku, a Japanese word for the "single number" game that created a frenzy among players in Great Britain before jumping to America in 2005. The craze began in the 1980s in Japan and has spread throughout Asia. *Eugene Weekly* welcomes Danburg-Wyld's Sudoku puzzles in this issue.

Warning: This game is addictive. Use a pencil, with an eraser. Logic and reasoning, not lucky guesses, are required. The goal is to fill in the blank cells on the three-square by three-square grid that makes up a sudoku puzzle. In each of these nine boxes the numbers 1 through 9 may occur once only. Likewise, numbers 1 through 9 may appear only once horizontally in each row, and only once vertically in each column.

Danburg-Wyld suggests that the puzzle evolved as a "natural progression" from what are called "Latin Squares," but in sudoku the clues (some numbers are filled in) are "arranged symmetrically." I don't know exactly what he means by that, but I am pleased to note that no math is involved in solving the puzzle — you don't add or subtract to get the values.

Before you dust off your thinking cap and attempt this brain-stretcher, Danburg-Wyld has a few tips. First, look at the grid as a whole and begin working with those numbers that are closer to being done. For example, if the puzzle has five out of nine 1's filled in but only three 2's, it may be easier to place the remaining four 1's. To do that, get systematic. Pencil in all the numbers (values) that could go into a cell. This will let you see patterns otherwise not obvious. You may see that in one box, there is only one cell that could contain a 1. Put it there.

Another trick: When you end up with two cells in a column that could contain one of two values, pencil both values in each. Eliminate these values as choices for the remaining cells in that column. (I know: Words are hard to visualize. But when you try this trick, you'll see it in a flash.)

I'm not yet a sudoku addict, but I have started playing. For a word-addled brain like mine, it's reassuring to have nine possibilities