

Things are disastrously wrong. Our masters must love liberals.

John Zerzan
Eugene

BRATTY CUSTOMERS

In response to the very bratty complaint about service at the downtown Eugene Post Office: I've had a PO box at the downtown Post Office for years, so I go there several times per week. I always enjoy seeing the staff there, as they are a fine batch of people. Over the years, I have witnessed them be incredibly patient with very difficult, bratty customers such as the woman who wrote (8/18) to complain about the Post Office.

I have seen customers being incredibly rude to staff for no reason, who responded so professionally and coolly that I was just floored. The Post Office staff is GREAT. Their supervisors need to know that.

And if, like the inconsiderate and bratty complainer, you let your 3-year-old twins run around and scream in the Post Office, you are teaching your children to be inconsiderate and bratty as well. I guess this is how the brattiness is transmitted from generation to generation.

Honey Vizer
Eugene

SMOKE FOR PROFIT

What would you do if a small handful of people had the power to change weather patterns and to jeopardize the health of the public for their own profits? What would you do if they actually used that power to do these things? What if you or people you know had health problems resulting from these actions that caused severe headaches, sore throat, burning eyes, lethargy, breathing difficulties and missed work days? It sounds like a plot in a Hollywood thriller but in fact it is happening right here in the Willamette Valley every summer with the practice of field burning by the grass seed and cereal grain industries.

Everyone has a right to participate in a business which makes a profit, but not at the cost of others. I think there should be a way for these industries to operate without negatively impacting the lives of many thousands of us here in the valley.

I am a healthy 43-year-old woman who, on some days can barely breathe when the smoke is really bad. I can only imagine how this might impact babies, the elderly and people with respiratory ailments. We are also breathing the toxic residue of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers that have been applied to those fields.

I recently called a local TV news station to see if they would do a story on this topic and was told that this practice has been in place since the Native Americans were

here, that the grass seed industry is one of Oregon's top cash crops and that the story has been done hundreds of times. When I replied that it sounded as if this person was an advocate for the Industry, and that investigative journalism involves getting all sides of the story, I was hung up on!

We can make phone calls and write letters to our state legislators. The laws around field burning have not been reviewed since 1991, according to my research. Every year, 65,000 acres are burned. That number has not changed since 1998. There is a USDA complaint line (686-7600), and these complaints are forwarded to the governor. It is time to review these practices. We must put pressure on our local and state governments to do so.

Dana Vion
Springfield

SMILING BUSH

Could it be that the higher gasoline prices are caused by empty heads while automobile driver's wallets are emptied? It's time to resurrect the WWII slogan, "Is this trip necessary?"

Reports out of Detroit tell us the Bush-Cheney administration is expected to abandon better fuel economy regulations for SUVs, light trucks and the obscene Hummers. That's making a bad situation worse, something at which Bush-Cheney seem to excel.

The recently passed industry friendly energy bill gives Big Oil about \$4 billion in tax breaks on top of the more than 30 percent higher profits they are pocketing. It's no wonder Bush-Cheney smiled when they signed the latest give away.

In our opinion, the Bush-Cheney cabal is the worst, most secretive and dangerous administration in memory. Let's think creatively and do something about it before it gets even worse. Did we hear the word "impeachment?"

John Saemann
Eugene

LITMUS TEST

To be Oregon's Democratic governor: First, you have to represent grassroots Democrats, not corporate and Republican lobbyists. When you are in Eugene you visit the Democratic Central Committee and elected Democrats, not only Chamber of Commerce types.

Second, you support the most important branches of state government: public education, public health, welfare and public safety. You find out how much money each of these departments needs to do a good job. And you write a state budget that provides the revenues to sustain a strong state government infrastructure. You provide needed public services.



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