

ference between Walker and Kulongoski is that Walker, as governor, would do this everyday not just once a year on some election Groundhog Day.

Walker has shown leadership and compassion on education, health care, and a more just society as www.walkerforgovernor.com readily demonstrates. I strongly encourage you to support Walker for governor.

Phil Kessinger
Eugene

MAGICAL SOCIETY

Ruby Colette (9/8) gives her take on Oregon Country Fair problems, then encourages us to live our ideals. Look, in an ideal world beauty wouldn't matter and beyond a point age wouldn't either. In an ideal world we'd all handle toilet paper with the dexterity of a juggler, and the neighbors would open their property and let us camp free. But we live in a real world.

In a real world signals get crossed something fierce, we sometimes lose in the shuffle people we should pay attention to, and we find creative solutions to lack of resources. Nobody needs to feel entitled for this to occur.

The OCF is a magical society, not an ideal one. To try to find in it a treasure trove of all one's ideals is to open up the goose that faithfully lays three magical eggs a year. There's plenty of magic to go around. If that's all you're looking for, the *EW* pictures don't even begin to display it.

Earl Gosnell,
Eugene

REFUGEE STATUS

As the tragedy in New Orleans deepens, people are discussing the role of racism in the emergency's mismanagement. An example I keep hearing is that the term "refugee" deems the displaced. In broad terms, they most certainly are seeking refuge, so what's the problem? Supposedly refugee implies a fleeing from one's country, associating them with foreigners, and exacerbating apathy and disconnection regarding their plight.

What should disturb us, is the racism toward actual refugees which makes this point valid! The association between foreign refugees and U.S. blacks is only degrading when we leave unchallenged the less-human status of non-American refugees. Must we remind ourselves that they are citizens in order to feel an urgency about their well-being? Is their suffering dissimilar to that of refugees from the tsunami, or Rwandan genocide? For that matter, is the grief of a parent-less child dependent on whether she was orphaned by U.S. strikes against Iraqi insurgents or the subway bombings in London?

The black faces on TV make sense considering what the marginalized have known for centuries: "American" implicitly equates with

white, monied, English-speaking, Christian, heterosexual, able-bodied, male patriots. If I were left in the floods of Katrina pleading for help, I'm sure I'd emphasize any connection I had to "mainstream America." Let's not forget, however, that rallying support behind a red, white and blue banner, feeds xenophobia, blinding nationalism and global racism.

Lucas Spiegel
Eugene

NOT A CLUE

President Bush is a lightweight in just about every category that really matters to someone occupying the White House. His immediate staff, the policy makers, are completely inept at predicting the results of their adventures. It has all now come home to roost.

This administration is reeling. They appear to have not a clue as to what's going wrong or how to fix it or even how they got there in the first place.

If you have long wished for an opportunity to rid this country of these obviously incompetent bozos then now is the time!

Call your Washington, D.C., representatives or at the very least e-mail them. Let them know you are fed up with this disastrous war, the worsening gas crisis, global warming, you name it. Let yourself be heard and maybe those nearly as clueless, quivering Democrats will wake up and smell the coffee.

It's a shame at this point at least, that this country isn't listening to the right people.

If the Democrats' leadership can't find some spine or wisdom in what has finally happened, then scorn should be heaped upon them, and their constituents should look for a new savior.

John DeLeau
Springfield

DIASTER MAGNET

In addition to all his other faults the W seems to have an extraordinary ability to attract U.S. disasters. There is 9/11 which is still shrouded in such secrecy that we cannot know its most potent details.

There is the Iraq war which has stirred up an international hornets nest of opposition to its bombing, invasion and occupation, creating more terrorist attacks than ever before.

And there is New Orleans which was made much more deadly because Bush insisted on deep cuts in funding for saving wetlands and for reinforcing levees and for inadequate evacuation of poor minority/white folks.

We have been morphed from a decent nation into a design-for-death nation. All those responsible must be thrown out of office by every legal means necessary. The herd that needs to be thinned are those who stole the White House and the Congress for they have brought us disaster, death and dumbness.

Bob Saxton
Eugene



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