

that really matter — if only we could get on the same page together!

Robert Simms  
Waldport

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The Eugene charter should be amended to give the citizens the power to terminate any city employee, hired, elected or appointed, at any time for any reason regardless of a contract or agreement, and to establish any city entity to perform any function required.

In any free society, all power emanates and is derived from the people, not from the city manager or any union.

Any government employee anywhere in the world given uncontrolled power will eventually become a dictator. That is why the Constitution has checks and balances. And these same checks and balances should exist in city and county government. City councils and county commissioners cannot be trusted.

Frank Skipton  
Springfield

## LIMITED HANG-OUT

On Oct. 18, a Eugene lecture by Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) was marketed as "solutions to the problems of empire." However, her strongest suggestions were to attend occasional peace rallies and to write our congressional representatives (most attendees were familiar with pressuring our senators).

She told us that there were no "weapons of mass destruction" found in Iraq and that Iraq was not responsible for Sept. 11, as if the audience had never heard this before.

Unfortunately, there was no interest in discussing the reasons for the war on Iraq, or using the gathering as an opportunity for dialogue and strategy. It was a "limited hang-out" (exposing a moderate-sized crime to avoid the deeper issues).

During question time, she was asked about the role of peak oil in the Iraq War (she had no response), how 9/11 was allowed to happen to create the war pretext (even less interest), and about vote fraud (she told the audience that Bush won the "popular vote" in 2004, even though there's lots of evidence that is not true).

This form of "activist malpractice" that avoids the deeper issues is caused by denial and funding from philanthropic foundations invested in oil. IPS's major donors include the Ford and Rockefeller foundations and billionaire currency speculator George Soros. Do these elite interests want left-wing groups to succeed in their goals of social transformation, or to control them to ensure that they don't succeed?

Bennis is a major player in United for Peace and Justice, a national umbrella for peace efforts. UFPJ's board includes the "Communist Party USA" (whatever that is), yet UFPJ does not discuss peak oil and has officially refused to discuss evidence for 9/11

complicity. Additional details are at [www.oilempire.us/gatekeepers.html](http://www.oilempire.us/gatekeepers.html)

Mark Robinowitz  
Eugene

## FALSE DILEMMAS

Justin Bengtson (10/13) poses several questions he says everybody needs to answer. But then, probably too busy packing for New Hampshire, he neglects to answer any of them himself. I suppose that I'm free to infer his answers from the tone of his letter, but I wish he had done us the courtesy of telling us what he knows instead of just acting like he knows it all while remaining silent.

But the real problem with Justin's questions is that they each pose false dilemmas. There is a world of gray area between the black and white choices he identifies. Perhaps Justin is too busy exercising his freedom to bother looking more closely at how and why we organize ourselves as a society. Personally, I'm just not sure that his oversimplification of complex issues is helpful. Before we answer his questions, maybe we should all review the Preamble to our Constitution to remind ourselves of the reasons governments are formed.

Based on his letter, I'm guessing that he is in bondage to one form or another of libertarianism. He is certainly free to hold whatever opinions he chooses, but his choice of those opinions does not give the rest of us a reason to believe they are true. In my opinion, his hyperbolic use of empty rhetoric unsupported by argument is just a feeble attempt to tyrannize us with a silly notion of absolute freedom.

Ken Kirby  
Junction City

## SUGAR BLUES

I disagree with Mr. Newland's (10/20) comments on "Healthy Lunches." Equating the use of USDA's surplus meat and milk products' "excess protein and saturated fat" to the cause of childhood obesity is factually wrong.

A number of scientific studies now recognize that kids need saturated fat and protein to absorb minerals and grow healthy bodies. Cholesterol shows up to fight the damage caused by a high-sugar diet. Sugar, often in the form of modified corn syrup, is far more dangerous than animal protein. Improving school food quality is about local growers and school districts communicating and finding ways to integrate and afford the wonderful fruits and vegetables that are grown right here in the Willamette Valley.

I think we can expand the cafeteria's use of school gardens to increase locally produced meals. Understanding this connection will give kids the tools they need to make good choices long after they leave school. Let's start by finding a way to replace the funding soft drink bottlers pay to the local districts to have their high-priced, high-sugar



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