

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

EVOLUTION OF A TALKING POINT

I PREDICT THE PRESIDENT WILL NOMINATE ANOTHER WOMAN AND/OR MINORITY TO THE SUPREME COURT-- BECAUSE REPUBLICANS ARE THE ONES WHO REALLY BELIEVE IN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY!

YES--AND IF LIBERALS RAISE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS UNDOUBTEDLY HIGHLY QUALIFIED NOMINEE, IT WILL ONLY BE DUE TO THEIR UN-ACKNOWLEDGED PREJUDICE!

IT'S A FORE-GONE CONCLUSION!



SORRY TO INTERRUPT, GENTLEMEN, BUT WE'VE JUST LEARNED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOMINATED ANOTHER WHITE GUY TO THE SUPREME COURT!

LIBERAL GROUPS ARE ALREADY RAISING OBJECTIONS TO THE WHITE GUY'S RECORD ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

WE'LL HAVE MORE AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR.



WELL--UH--HE IS OF ITALIAN DESCENT!

YEAH! WHY DO LIBERALS HATE ITALIAN-AMERICANS?!

CAN'T THEY JUDGE HIM ON THE CONTENT OF HIS CHARACTER?

I GUESS WE KNOW WHO THE REAL RACISTS ARE!

IT'S TRULY APPALLING!

INDEED!

THINK ANYONE WILL BUY IT?

ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY.



news Briefs

DOCS OBJECT TO PLANS

More than 60 letters objecting to PeaceHealth's plans to maintain a full 104-bed hospital at Hilyard Street in Eugene were sent to state officials in late September. The letters, from physicians and elected officials, questioned the need for a third acute care hospital in the metropolitan area.

One letter, signed by Rep. Paul Holvey and Sens. Bill Morrisette, Floyd Prozanski and Vicki Walker, voiced concerns that quick approval of PeaceHealth's plans would create "a strong possibility that McKenzie-Willamette will not be able to relocate to Eugene."

PeaceHealth, currently building a new medical center in northern Springfield, has also applied for a certificate of need (CoN) for its existing site near the UO campus. Meanwhile, McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center in Springfield is being pressured to relocate to Eugene or Glenwood, but has not yet settled on a site. The hospital has asked the state to delay processing PeaceHealth's CoN until both hospitals' CoNs can be reviewed together. But a judge this week denied the request, and a decision on PeaceHealth's CoN is expected in January.

"There's no guarantee that PeaceHealth will be given CoN approval, but it would be surprising if they were not," said McKenzie-

Willamette spokesperson Rosie Pryor this week. "The question then is whether the state agrees with our consultant whose interpretation of the bed need formula in state statute reveals limited need going forward, or whether the state agrees with PeaceHealth's consultant, whose analysis is that there is ample need."

PeaceHealth spokesperson Brian Terrett said he doesn't know how many letters were sent in support of PeaceHealth, but the letters in opposition were "based on erroneous information" sent out by Dr. Jay Chappell of the McKenzie-Willamette Physician Leadership Group.

Chappell wrote in a letter to physicians that "PeaceHealth has characterized this proposal to state CoN staff as having the full support of the local medical community," but Terrett said "We would never say that we have the full support of the physicians on any issue." Terrett also said the doctors had been erroneously told they would have to cover three emergency departments. "That's simply not true. The EMS system won't be bringing any trauma cases to Hilyard."

Four physicians at McKenzie Pediatrics signed a letter to the state that said, "We do not support the establishment of a third, full-service acute hospital in the Eugene-Springfield area. We do not wish to practice at a third hospital.

We do not wish to take call in a third emergency department."

A letter from surgeon Robert W. DePriest, MD, said he does not intend to see patients at the Hilyard emergency department, and "all of the other surgeons I have talked to adamantly refuse to take call to this planned emergency department ... I am afraid that the PeaceHealth people are trying to play games with you. If you were to consider this new hospital application independently, the proposal submitted by McKenzie-Willamette,

Eugene residents voted by a healthy margin this week to approve a measure establishing an independent police complaint review process, and they did it for a number of reasons. Some trusted the recommendation of the Eugene Police Commission after its exhaustive analysis of different review models. Some voters looked at the costs and figured they would be the same regardless of who hires the auditor and appoints board members. Some were concerned about too much power in the hands of our city manager. Some were just angry at Eugene's history of police abuse and the cops' unapologetic union. But regardless, we now have the beginnings in place for a more transparent, more credible process for restoring accountability and trust in our police force.

We were sad to hear this week of the sudden and unexpected death of Benjamin Powell, a gifted 19-year-old Eugene musician and composer. He played guitar, bass, banjo, violin and mandolin. He was a member of The Cheeseburgers and formerly Android Ethic, and played with Paul Biondi's bands and many others. He was born April 24, 1986. His father is John Powell, founding member of the Valley Boys, and a member of The Cheeseburgers. A memorial jam session is planned for 1 pm Saturday at Cozmic Pizza.



Benjamin Powell

One important point seldom surfaces in this community's 20-year argument about punching a freeway through the west Eugene wetlands. With the urging of our Congressman DeFazio, the federal government through the Bureau of Land Management has spent close to \$12 million over a 10-year period to purchase these wetlands. This money comes from the Land Water Conservation Fund to protect wetlands and hold them in perpetuity. Certainly seems like a violation of the public trust to pave a destructive strip through those wetlands bought with our tax dollars.

Wal-Mart opened its new SuperCenter out West 11th last week and we hear from an apologetic cashier that it was a chaotic grand opening, with many people spending more time at the cash register than actually shopping. We know that such mega-box stores are a blight on the landscape, pave over huge areas of land, suck the life out of downtown, put dozens of small enterprises out of business, and pay poverty level wages. But in Eugene we allow them anyway because they conform to our outdated building codes. Other cities in Oregon limit the size of retail outlets to avoid such atrocities and to maintain some semblance of city character. Why not Eugene? It appears that the money and power in this town still reside in the hands of people who love California-style concrete and unlimited sprawl.

We're watching a new legal theory on tax incentives that's moving through the courts. In September the U.S. Supreme Court decided to hear Daimler Chrysler Corp. v. Charlotte Cuno, et al, a case in which the Sixth Circuit decided that an investment credit granted by the state of Ohio to encourage investment in new machinery and equipment violated the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Court of Appeals held that this form of tax competition, in encouraging in-state investment at the necessary expense of development in other states, impermissibly hinders free trade among the states in violation of the Commerce Clause. We're wondering if this would apply to enterprise zones and other tax incentives Oregon is granting to corporations.

After seeing *Grizzlyman*, a film set in the breathtaking Alaskan wilderness, we're especially heartbroken over the Nov. 3 Senate vote to allow oil drilling in part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The drilling provision was nestled in a five-year budget-cutting bill that barely squeaked through the GOP-controlled Senate by a 52-47 vote. Sens. Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden supported an unsuccessful amendment to drop the drilling provision from the bill. But unlike Wyden, Smith didn't hold firm to his conviction, and he then voted to pass the bill with the drilling provision in it. The move smacks of hypocrisy. In 2002, Smith broke from his party line and opposed drilling in ANWR. He trumpeted that stand in his 2002 election campaign with a TV ad that boasted, "He opposed the White House and stopped oil drilling in Alaska." Looks like Gordo's morals have shifted. But there's still hope -- the drilling provision won't become law unless it also passes in the House. Two dozen House Republicans have opposed drilling in ANWR. Contact your U.S. rep and urge him or her to oppose the budget bill unless the drilling provision is dropped. You can join Sen. Barbara Boxer's boycott of companies that drill in ANWR by visiting <http://ga4.org/campaign/boycott>

This week our president declared, "We do not torture!" And a few days later, new reports came in about secret prison camps in Eastern Europe, and U.S. soldiers beating up detainees. The evidence that we do indeed torture, humiliate and even kill prisoners is overwhelming. Nearly 100 U.S. troops are facing criminal charges for abusing prisoners. Bush is threatening to veto a Senate bill that includes language banning "cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment" of prisoners, and Cheney is asking Congress to exclude the CIA from any torture bans. Bush and company are out of bounds and out of control, and the world is watching to see if the American people care. It's time for all of us to stand up, speak out, and reclaim our dignity.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com