

astonished at this snub by the corporate media, but it fits a long pattern of such behavior by the American Empire's so-called "free press," who then, as now, were cheerleaders for the war. That is, until the public turned against it.

The senator made no reference to the snub, and was a very gracious dinner companion. He was defeated in the 1968 primary — no doubt wounded by his courageous opposition to the war.

Gary Craig
Eugene

NO EXCUSES

Todd Stout (11/3) is really upset about the "Best of Eugene" selection of Jeff "Free" Luers as "Best Activist." He accuses Free's supporters of "glorifying" a "serial arsonist." I haven't read a single letter from a supporter of Jeff arguing that his actions should be replicated. Indeed, most of his allies make it clear they don't support his actions, but that 22 years is too much time for a crime which harmed nobody physically.

I'm curious, when was the last time Stout mustered the energy to write a letter concerning environmental destruction, violence against women or police brutality? I'm guessing he never has. But courageous Stout can muster the energy to write a letter arguing that a young man should "never get out of prison" — why? Because he torched a few SUVs! I'm glad the majority of *EW* readers are apparently more compassionate than Stout.

Steven Gider
Eugene

TORTURED VALUES

The core of American values have always been the inalienable rights of mankind. This philosophy has set us apart and held us up as a model for other nations. Since the Geneva Convention, America has exercised its founding philosophy by practicing humane treatment of prisoners.

Every year the State Department issues a report accusing other nations of violating international treaties forbidding "cruel, inhuman and degrading" treatment of prisoners. Now, the president and vice president are calling for the exemption of the U.S. from that philosophy, allowing for torture of foreign nationals by the CIA. Ostensibly this is to help us in a terror emergency, but how do you define an "emergency"? And who decides if the detainee is guilty?

In the last few years we've seen secret prisons around the world where suspected terrorists "disappear" without civil oversight, Red Cross registry, or any representation at all. Prisoners have been tortured and killed with little accountability. Even at home, under the guise of homeland defense, we are searched every time we travel by air, our web browsing, e-mail, and library rentals can be secretly inspected, our phones can be tapped without justification, and we may even have to sign a "loyalty oath" just to attend a political rally where questions to candidates are pre-approved.

Enough is enough! American policies must uphold the basic rights of mankind!

Jason A. Kilgore
Junction City



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