

tacks, thereby encouraging further violence. This sounds a lot more like "eco-terrorism" to me.

Josh Schlossberg
Eugene

CLASHING IDEAS

What if America's reaction to the World Trade towers tragedy had been asking, "What have we done to provoke that horrendous act? What did the perpetrators think about us that made them feel that violence was the way to get our attention, or punish us for what they saw as our misdeeds?"

It is possible that our real enemies are the views they hold about us? Their idea that we are the "great Satan" and our belief that the terrorists are irrational extremists provokes each side to violence and killing. Our hostilities are not destroying or diminishing the real enemies that are the views we hold about each other. The escalated killing in Iraq is not bringing peace.

Don't we need to meet and talk until we understand each other? Both sides need to see that our problems are caused by our ideas, and ignorance (in understanding) the other side is what leads us to violence. Without such meetings each side will continue to view the other as truculent belligerents who are impossible to deal with and must be killed.

With talk, reasoning and bargaining we can reach agreements based on mutual understanding. Both sides want justice and peace. It is not who we are as nations or peoples that is the problem as much as the views and information we entertain. Killing each other does not destroy those ideas.

Edgar Peara
Eugene

MEDICARE IN 2006

A better 2006 — I hope so! I'm looking forward to the growing support for a single-payer health care plan for all Oregonians. Hopefully we will have at least two candidates for governor pushing for an affordable plan that does away with the expensive and unnecessary middlemen.

Now 600,000 citizens living in Oregon are without health insurance and the numbers are growing. There is an increasing awareness that the only affordable health care is an expansion of Medicare for everyone but with fairer reimbursement payments for patient care. Medicare administrative costs are 2 to 3 percent compared to insurance company administrative estimates of 25 to 50 percent of every medical dollar spent. This is a huge drain on everyone's pocket.

I do hope Oregonians can become informed on health care funding and demand a change!

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

REGRESSIVE LOGIC

I was interested to read Joshua Welch's article (12/29) on morality and religion. If the person who designed every single thing in the universe writes a guide to living, then I'd say he knows more about living rightly, and that it may well be valid to live by that guide. He quotes a prominent atheist as saying that, "Our ethics must be firmly planted in the soil of scientific self-knowledge. They must be improvable and adaptable."

But this defies logic. If ethics must be improved and adapted, what must they be improved and adapted from? Why, they have to be



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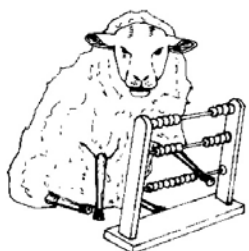
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