

Hill as Treasurer.

Most Oregonians are disillusioned with the lack of leadership by the current governor during the last four years. Our schools are in financial crisis. Health care and prescription medicine costs are out of control. We all have to work more for less. Far too many Oregonians don't have health care or retirement plans. Working families are looking for results from leaders, not excuses.

I feel it's time for Oregon voters to elect a governor who will champion working family issues. Hill will take on the insurance industry and drug companies to ensure affordable health care and prescription medicines. The change we need now is to reject mediocrity and vote for excellence in leadership. Hill is a genuine progressive.

James Jacobson
Eugene

SUBSIDIZED SLAVERY

There are people in this country who believe that illegal immigration presents an imminent threat to the health and well-being of our social welfare system. Yet I see no indication that these same people realize that this "drain" on society is part of a much larger problem. The political elites (who, in this Bush administration, are together one and the same as the financial elites) have effectively declared war against American civil society, social programs and working people who pay taxes.

Big business is profiting off immigrant slave labor since they can get away with paying these workers pennies on the dollar without benefits. And we the people end up having to subsidize this slavery by picking up the slack; supporting immigrants and their families with our tax dollars because the business moguls dominating the political landscape today refuse to adequately compensate their employees with livable wages.

And this is a symptom, not the disease. The fact that half of every dollar that each of us pays in federal taxes is going to military spending is a symptom of this disease. "Free trade" and the war in Iraq are also both symptoms of this disease.

The disease is the political dominance of big businesses, namely arms manufacturers, and rightist ideologues in our country's halls of power. The cure is for citizens to begin holding this government accountable for every penny of our taxes it spends.

Nicolas McGovern
Albany

ALWAYS AMUSED

We on the other side of the river always enjoy the comic relief provided by Eugene's city government. The latest terrible "crisis" over the now infamous Carlson e-mail is especially entertaining.

My goodness — how would Councilor Bettman and her "progressive" pals ever survive if something genuinely bad were to happen in their lives?

Yours in complete amusement,

Jerry Ritter
Rural Springfield

ISSUE OF POWER

Labor unions are a means of injecting a bit of economic democracy into the workplace. While bargaining with a union, employers need to give reasons for what they wish to do, and they must be willing to compromise; otherwise, they would not be negotiating in good faith. If a company has a union, the bosses sometimes need to engage in discussion, rather than just giving orders.

An article in the 3/23 *EW* contained a celebratory history of Mother Kali's, but omitted any mention of the attempt to organize a labor union at the bookstore. In 2004, I attended a rally in support of the Mother Kali's workers, at which two of them spoke briefly. They said that they had come to the conclusion that the opposition to the bookstore having a union stemmed from a desire for power on the part of certain individuals.

Labor unions represent an attempt by workers to gain a little control over their own lives. For information on the attempt to organize a union at Mother Kali's, see Aria Seligmann's article, "Kali's Cries: Can Mother Kali's Books Make It Amid Labor, Economic and Personnel Issues? Part 1" in the *EW* online archives for Feb. 19, 2004.

Milton Takei
Eugene

NOT SO BAD JOBS

Regarding the Royal Caribbean (RC) news brief (4/13): Granted, the \$9.25 per hour is not a family wage, when you multiply that annual salary by the number of present employees, and the additional 100 employees they are adding, Royal Caribbean will be infusing our area with over \$7 million dollars in local wages, the first year it does business in its new Springfield home.

RC could have chosen to set up a call center anywhere in the world, but they chose Lane County. At a time when most large corporations are leaving the country for cheaper labor, they chose to have a U.S.-based workforce.

RC also offers health insurance, dental and vision coverage, as well as a 401(K) retirement plan. Furthermore, RC did not just build any building — it is one of nine certified "green," ecologically efficient buildings in the state of Oregon.

In the short time they have been here, they have already given back to the community with donations to FOOD for Lane County, and a benefit fund-raiser for a Children's

Celebrate American Wetlands Month 2006!

The Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN) and the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership invites the community to join in celebrating May, American Wetlands Month. Many educational programs are planned throughout the month:



May 3rd: Evening Marsh Walk
May 5th: Wetlands Photography Exhibit Opening
May 6th: Wetlands Nature Photography Workshop
May 7th: Wildflowers & Wings Walk
May 10th: Hynix Stormwater Tour
May 13th: WREN booth at the Fern Ridge Wings & Wine Festival
May 17th: The Natural History of the River Otter
May 21st: WREN booth at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower Festival
May 24th: Hynix Wetland and Upland Walk
May 31st: Discover Dragonflies!
June 3rd: Spring Butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands

Programs are made possible by the following sponsors: Eugene REI, Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Raven Frame Works of Eugene. WREN would like to thank Anne Korn and Terry Way, owners of Raven Frame Works, for donating their time and custom framing of two 2006 Wetlands Month prints for display at events. Many events require registration and begin or take place at the education yurt, 751 S. Danebo. For more information, contact Holly McRae 683-6494 or visit www.wetlands.org



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- 04.27 Judy Collins
- 05.06 Guy Clark
- 05.07 John Pizzarelli Quartet
- 05.09 Richard Thompson
- 05.11-20 The Jazz Kings: Harry & Hoagy
- 05.17 Mark O'Connor Appalachia Waltz
- 05.25 American Portraits - F. Gearhart

— Visit www.theshedd.org for updates —

Judy Collins
April 27
The Shedd

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tokyo asia

Guy Clark
Saturday, May 6

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Dr. Chris Miller
specializing in minimally invasive laser surgery

The John Pizzarelli Quartet
May 7th

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Valley River Inn
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Richard Thompson
1000 Years of Popular Music
May 9th

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"He was my cream, and I was his coffee. And when you poured us together, it was something."

Josephine Baker

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