

• We're longtime admirers of Charles Gray and his inspiring career of peace and social justice activism in the Eugene area and beyond, and we are sad to hear of his failing health. The prognosis for the octogenarian is not good. He has been diagnosed with metastasized bone cancer and is undergoing radiation therapy. His spirits are good but he is no longer able to walk or even sit up. He and his wife, Sylvia Hart, were able to attend a gathering of 100 people held in his honor last weekend at the Friends Meeting House. Gray, a former sociologist, told us in an interview (see *EW* archives, 12/14/2000) that he found happiness in living simply, biking for transportation, and buying very little. He said many people now work so hard they don't even have time to harvest the fruit growing in their own yards. "In any reasonable civilization we'd probably have to only work about one-third time if we didn't have to generate all the crap we do now," he said. Gray is a war tax resister and author of *Toward a Nonviolent Economics*, which is widely quoted but no longer in print.



• Who says the Willamette Valley is too cloudy for solar energy? Hats off to EPUD for its role in a new photovoltaic panel system on the roof of the Camping World RV supply store in Junction City. The panels are expected to supply 30 to 40 percent of the electricity used at the building, and are capable of generating 60,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a year, making it the largest solar generator in Lane County. This is the sixth PV system involving EPUD. The local utility also helped with systems at the Aprovecho Institute research center near Cottage Grove, and at every high school in EPUD's district (Elmira, Marcola, Pleasant Hill and Cottage Grove) as a way to educate future generations about solar energy. Camping World's \$400,000 system is spendy, but it's expected to pay for itself in about five years.

• What else is going on this summer? Snow is melting quickly in the Cascades, rivers are running high and global warming is contributing to scary fire seasons locally and across the nation. Measure 37 claims could make Oregon fire seasons even worse in the future as more people move into farm and forest lands. We take for granted our abundant water in the valley, but some folks are already looking at building rainwater catchment systems in anticipation of drought. Meanwhile, contentious land use issues continue as our population grows. On July 6 Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth is mounting a second LUBA appeal of a city of Veneta decision to allow significant wetlands to be filled for stores and parking lots. Some fancy homes along the Siuslaw River estuary are being threatened by erosion and the county wants to install riprap, which is expensive, ugly, and often leads to unintended environmental consequences. On July 12 the County Commission will decide on a residential development of 320 acres of farm and forest land. Goal One and LandWatch Lane County are arguing that the property is productive land, and should be preserved from development. And just this week the *R-G* reported Wildish Land Co. is planning to develop about 700 acres near Mount Pisgah, under Measure 37. Talking about land use puts a lot of people to sleep, but these issues are directly related to the future livability of our valley.

• Last week our prez was asked in a press conference with foreign journalists if the U.S. is a threat to world peace. "That's absurd," said Bush. But is it? The unprovoked invasion of Iraq and the killing of 50,000 Iraqis has created a bloody insurgency and fueled hatred of the U.S. and our shrinking allies. How about our killing and torturing prisoners? Our supplying the world with weapons? Threatening to use nuclear weapons against our real and perceived enemies? Teddy Roosevelt had the right idea for world peace with his philosophy of "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Bush babbles loudly and swings his stick wildly at anything or anybody in his way. Let's take away his stick in November and begin a return to sanity and restraint in our foreign policy.

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

who then bike along an undetermined route blocking traffic to raise awareness. But unlike Critical Mass, which is aggressively targeted by Eugene police, the skaters pulled off their rally completely undisturbed. According to Ragozzino, many of drivers stuck behind them on 6th Avenue were even shouting in support.

— Melissa Bearns

BUILDING ON THE AMAZON

Amazon Creek is contaminated with excess levels of arsenic, lead, *E. coli* and several other pollutants, according to the EPA. In response to federal finger-wagging, and in compliance with its new pollution discharge permit, the city of Eugene is taking steps to clean up the creek and other local waterways that flow into the Willamette River. But activists worry that the changes may be too little, too late.

A proposed city rule would prohibit building within 75 feet of waterways, but that change won't affect three major proposed developments in the Amazon Creek headwaters. Developer Joe Green's Green Valley Glen would put 116 houses by the Amazon's east fork headwaters; Richard McDougal's Dillard Heights would place 33 houses on land that drains into the east fork, and Martin and Leslie Beverly's Deer Brook would plop 81 houses near the main fork.

The developments will be able to squeak past the rule change because the setback ordinance won't be in effect until sometime in 2007, says city planner Peggy Keplar. "We can apply the new standards as long as we don't change existing land use approval," she said.

On June 12, the City Council adopted new stormwater quality development standards requiring developers to treat water before it leaves a construction site, effective July 14. But the water treatment is only one layer of a multi-part strategy to pare down excessive pollutants in Amazon Creek, Keplar said.

Lisa Warnes of the citizen group Visions

for an Intact Ecosystem and Watershed (VIEW) is unimpressed. "The City of Eugene is very likely to be in violation of the Clean Water Act," she said. "We spend a small fortune cleaning up the Amazon downstream, but the city continues with the status quo to allow development in these at-risk watershed areas."

Keplar disagrees: "Our [pollution discharge] permit required that we implement water quality standards, and we have done that now, so no, we are not in violation of the Clean Water Act." — Kera Abraham

MYSFACE MORTUARY

Rupert Murdoch may own MySpace.com, but murders — and car crashes, aneurysms, accidents and other killers of the young — dominate an unaffiliated spinoff, MyDeathSpace.com. The site offers obituaries, comments and links to the MySpace profiles of the recently deceased, including several young people from Oregon.

There's Pfc. Thomas Tucker, 25, of Madras, who was killed in Iraq on June 16. Tucker's MySpace page lists his interests as motorcycles, fishing and beer. Under "Heroes," Tucker had written, "myself, haha!!!"

In the days after learning of his grisly death, Tucker's friends left comments in his memory. "I miss you and I really regret that I didn't get to see you last time you were home," one friend wrote. "You are truly a hero and we all miss you."

Also on MyDeathSpace: Marissa Manwarren, 17, of Portland, who was shot to death on June 14. Her boyfriend Cevalino Capuia, 19, and his

friend Shawn Womack, 21, are facing charges for the murders of Manwarren and two others: 28-year-old Chai Taphom and 38-year-old Michael Burchett. Womack and Capuia allegedly shot the two men as they left a porn shop, then stole their cars. According to Portland police spokesman Det. Paul Dolbey, messages from friends on Capuia's MySpace page indicated a third vic-



Thomas Tucker



Marissa Manwarren

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