

tries will benefit from the deal. Rather than working to build on last year's promises, the G-8 adopted a flawed plan of action on energy security. They are pushing increased oil investment in developing countries despite research showing oil production and exports increase a country's debt burden, undermining debt relief. Additionally, the push for increased oil development is contributing to climate change, to which the poor are most vulnerable.

We must not allow the world's addiction to oil to undermine the fight against global poverty. In the months and years following this year's G-8 summit, we must demand a comprehensive, sustainable solution that focuses on renewable energy and puts an end to oil dependence and crushing debts.

Greg Lief
Corvallis

MISSING TOKERS

I had a great time at the Emerald Empire Hempfest! It was the first year for me as a vendor. The music was great, the food was great and the people were great — the ones who showed up.

I met people from Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Seattle and even a woman from England. Oddly missing were people from Eugene.

I thought this was a great business opportunity. Statistically 10 percent of Eugene adults smoke pot and 50 percent of Eugene adults smoked pot sometime in their life. That's 15,000 to 75,000 people! But they did not show. It's like finding out 10 percent of a city loves baseball, 50 percent of the city go to baseball games occasionally — I build a stadium and no one shows up. What's up with that?

Maybe everybody went camping. I'm sure in this activist town all these people can't be afraid to show up at a Hempfest. Remember Hempfest is a political rally — we need support.

Anyway, I had a great time. I heard a great reggae band, Henry Turner Jr. and Flavor — "I like to toke, toke, toke but I don't smoke 'dope'." I also got some legal advice: If you are pulled over and you have a locked box in your car, you do not have to open it for the police unless they get a warrant.

The only problem I saw was on Sunday evening when a guy showed up with a sign that said, "REPENT!" He got into a yelling match with a vendor. We vendors don't like people insulting our customers.

Hope to see you at next year's Emerald Empire Hempfest!

Chris Pender
Eugene

REAPING WHAT WE SOW

Like most Americans, I am watching the escalation of violence in Israel, Gaza and Lebanon with empathy and concern for the ordinary Israelis, Palestinians and Lebanese civilians being harmed. Responsibility for their suffering rests with the current administration, whose actions and inactions have combined to give us the current unfolding perfect storm.

The American friendship with Israel should have resulted in a strengthening of Israel's inclination for peace, compromise and respect for human rights. Instead, we have supported and funded a failed political and military strategy. Together, our two nations have sowed misery throughout the region over the years, and we are now reaping

the whirlwind. It is no defense of Palestinian and Lebanese terrorists to point out they both thrive in the absence of real prospects for peace. Our country's influence should be used to moderate Israel's reaction. The best course of action would include negotiation and mutual exchanges of prisoners.

Martin Falk
Eugene

WHERE'S WYDEN?, PART 7

Roadless areas make up the largest remaining tracts of intact forests in the U.S. Incomprehensibly, the Forest Service plans on clearcutting some of these pristine wildlands in the Siskiyou National Forest in August. Logging Oregon's roadless areas would open the floodgates for roadless logging throughout the nation.

Despite the efforts of citizens and advocacy groups, the fate of these forests is now up to the "big boys." So where does supposedly "green" Senator Wyden stand on this precedent-setting decision?

So far he hasn't said a word. However could this be?

Maybe the fact that in 2003, Wyden was second only to George W. Bush for the most timber industry campaign contributions (according to *Willamette Week*) has something to do with his silence.

That year, Wyden had also sponsored one of the most irresponsible and destructive forest policies ever passed, the Orwellian "Healthy Forests Initiative," which — under the guise of fire prevention — authorizes a kind of pre-emptive strike of logging across more than 20 million acres of federal lands.

Despite the senator's serious shortcomings, OLCV has given Wyden a 95 percent "green" record. Be that as it may, I hope the senator remembers from school that even if you get A's all term, just one zero averaged into your grade can flunk you.

Josh Schlossberg
Eugene

WANTON SLAUGHTER

I think it's wrong for our government to support the Israeli bombing of Lebanon, and I hope after reading this letter, you'll agree with me and write letters, send emails, and participate in demonstrations to express your views.

If supporting the wanton slaughter of hundreds of innocent civilians and the purposeful destruction of a small, weak country's infrastructure doesn't bother your conscience (as it does mine), consider the political implications of this policy. The bombs and missiles the Israelis are using to create this vicious hell for the Lebanese people have an American return address on them — hardly the way to "win the hearts and minds" of the people of the Middle East or encourage them to emulate our supposed democracy.

Like our government's longtime support for Israeli's persecution of the Palestinian people (often in violation of UN Security Council resolutions) — not to mention our illegal war on Iraq and the bombing and crippling sanctions that preceded it — allowing the Israeli bombing of Lebanon to go on for at least a week more is destabilizing the Middle East, making Syria and Iran stronger, and adding to the ranks of Hezbollah and Hamas.

Finally, this government-sponsored terrorism increases the likelihood of terrorist reprisals — further attacks on the U.S. and Israel. If you really want peace, you negotiate

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