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Letters TO THE EDITOR

ism with the unconscionable targeting and wanton destruction of innocent human lives to affect change. Yet we are now being influenced to believe that destruction of property is terrorism. One can only speculate as to why.

Mr. Terrance appears convinced these arson were terrorism, so I would ask him why these buildings and businesses were, but the churches burned in Georgia and Alabama earlier this year weren't? I'm sure those good parishioners felt terrorized, but I never saw the T-word mentioned in any of those reports.

It was exceptionally fortunate that no lives were lost by any of the emergency responders to these fires. The consequences could have been much more severe.

Terry Moore
Corvallis

THE VALUE OF OUR FORESTS

What's it going to take for people to understand the value of our (standing) forests and demand an end to their liquidation? Is the creation of pure water not enough of an incentive? How about clean air? Carbon storage, anyone? Maybe fertile topsoil, erosion and flood control? Recreation, then? Tourism dollars?

Are none of these vital — and free — services provided by our forests enough to make their protection a priority for Americans?

OK, what if we found a cure for cancer in our forests? Would that incite the public to rise up and demand an end to the slaughter of the greatest concentration of life on Earth?

Well guess what? We already have found a treatment for ovarian cancer in our forests. It's called taxol, and it's derived from the yew tree, a tree that the criminally incompetent and corrupt Forest Service once classified as — now get this — a "trash" tree! In fact, almost a quarter of drugs prescribed in the U.S. contain compounds from or based on those found in the forest.

Are we so foolish a species as to stand idly by as the insatiable corporate extraction industry lays waste even to our own medicine chests? Our government takes the public's silence on environmental issues as permission

to destroy our planet. Please, take a stand and let your voice be heard! Now is the time to get involved!

Josh Schlossberg
Native Forest Council

FRIEDMAN'S GIFT

The news media has recently stated the wonderful things the late Dr. Milton Friedman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist has done to improve our economy and to improve our standard of living. I beg to differ in regard to his impact on the standard of living in Oregon. Friedman was indirectly responsible for the damage done to Oregon's infrastructure, including the reduction of state funding resulting from Measure 5.

Two large holders of commercial real estate in California had been trying unsuccessfully for years to cap the state of California property tax. In the mid-1970s, they had another such effort on the ballot known as Proposition 13 and had the bright idea to ask

Mr. Friedman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, to help them pass their measure. Friedman, as a well-known advocate of reducing the public sector, agreed to help them campaign for Proposition 13 in California, and with his help it passed, and this directly led to the passage of

Measure 5 in Oregon.

The voters in California didn't seem to understand that Prop. 13 was about fiscal policy since it was concerned with taxes and spending, while Friedman's Nobel Prize was for his work in monetary policy and he had no expertise in the area of fiscal policy at all. To have relied on Friedman for advice regarding an issue such as fiscal policy is similar to visiting a proctologist for a sore throat! Wrong end of the field! Too bad the voters of California couldn't tell one end from the other because, if they had disregarded Friedman's advice, the public sector would not be suffering the problems associated with its declining infrastructure that is Friedman's gift to the citizens of Oregon.

Dennis Shine
Springfield

BUSH READY TO RUN

While Bush and his ditto head pundits like to accuse the Democrats of wanting to "cut and run" from Iraq, they conveniently like to

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