

Does *EW* approve of the kidnappings of women or girls forced into sex slavery? Why did the free *EW* print an ad (back page, 1/25) picturing a woman whose feet and hands were bound? The ad was for a costume bondage/fetish event at a local lounge.

I counted five embedded website addresses in that ad that anyone could see, even kids. The websites sell bondage tools like "hemp bondage rope," for tying people up, and services like: "asphyxiation — breath play," "electro-torture" and "corporal punishment." Cute. One site advertises a local Eugene "dungeon" hidden in a converted old fire station. No kidding. Their website says that it has one spacious room, a "Japanese influenced bondage room," and a "medical room" (with a gynecologist's table) for fun.

Cashing in on dehumanizing turn-ons may be lucrative, but it is not good for Eugene. *Exploiting fear hijacks the imagination and destroys the capacity for compassion.*

Just when America is caught using torture chambers and the whole world is spinning with images of real human bondage and suffering, entrepreneurs without conscience are making trendy parasite industries that teach nothing but detachment and delusion.

When *EW* prints an ad, *EW* implies endorsement. When *EW* prints an ad, it automatically advances it toward the level of normalcy — and the young are taking in all of it.

Please don't print ads like that. I will buy one ad space for something else, if you agree.

*Deb Huntley
Eugene*

ON CG'S WAL-MART

I first passed through Cottage Grove on my way to Eugene to visit my mother's mother's family way back in the late 1950s. So all the green trees and rural aspects of life in Oregon were imprinted early on. My mother would tell me to look up and watch for mountain lions in the tree-tops.

All through the noisy and turbulent 1960s and 1970s I kept Oregon in the back of my mind, and by the middle 1980s I was planning on selling out in California and moving North. Why?

I loved California, but the state of orange groves and rabbit-fields all the way from San Diego to Ventura and from Pasadena to Long Beach had become one choked blackberry warren of identical mini-marts, mega-malls, and freeways that stretched from one identical place to another. I drove north on the I-5 because the California I loved was eaten alive by the remorseless and sleepless avalanche of development and super-sizing. Oregon remained Oregon because of far-sighted planning and controls on development.

I started visiting Cottage Grove in the mid 1980s and moved here in 1992. I bought my very first house, the one I live in, about six years ago.

Now I love Cottage Grove because of the same reason people love Oregon. It still hasn't been turned over to out of state corporations to chew up and turn into California. We have pressing issues here in Cottage Grove to take our time, focus and community involvement and financial support:

We need to make an environment that draws more downtown small-town businesses and activities. We need to preserve our green surroundings and expand out community-oriented infrastructure like the bikeways and surrounding lake and recreational facili-

ties. We do NOT need to invite overwhelming changes that make Cottage Grove into just another mass-produced bedroom community and freeway off-ramp.

May I close by warning you to keep looking up and watching for mountain lions in the tree-tops. And remember what Tom McCall, once governor of Oregon, said:

"Even the wild creatures of the forest know better than to go back to a trap from which they escaped"

*Leo River
Cottage Grove*

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Last month tens of thousands of activists met in Nairobi, Kenya, to present alternatives to the agenda being set by global elites at the World Economic Forum. This was the seventh annual World Social Forum, and the second global meeting in Africa. The Jan. 20-25 meeting attracted delegates from across the world who gathered to denounce social injustices that have continued to afflict developing countries. Activists preparing for the U.S. Social Forum this summer in Atlanta (June 27-July 1) attended to learn how key problems were being defined, and how to develop organizing strategies for regional forums elsewhere. The U.S. Social Forum will send a message to other peoples' struggles around the world that there is an active movement in the U.S. opposing policies at home and abroad.

A global movement is rising, and hopefully Eugene-based organizations can show solidarity by attending the USSF and declaring what we want our world to look like. www.ussf2007.org

*Becky Clausen
Eugene*

BROWN MONEY

It's nice that there is a green home show in Eugene (Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show), but I was very surprised to see a finance company there that was part of Umpqua Holdings. Yeah, Umpqua, aka Stumpqua, the nasty bank owned by the clearcutting lumber baron, and whose branch banks regularly get a lot of protesters.

What were THEY doing there?
Tell me it ain't so.

*Ralph Wombat
Eugene*

BE THE PARENT


Among other things, my father was an early chronicler of the Nazi mentality. His serious conclusion was that they were spoiled children whose parents had failed to teach them self-restraint and that it falls to us to do so. Erstwhile schoolyard bullies, fueled by their own blood-lust, morph into megalomaniacs. His prescription was to be unafraid of them and to restrain and contain them (this was in early 1941).

Sadly, two-thirds of a century later, my father's insights still apply. The current occupant of the White House fits them to a T. He spent the first half of his adult life as a full-time party animal, and the second half becoming a world-class war criminal. His "ordinary guy" persona, plus a ton of money, got him elected. Unfortunately, we know the rest.

His parents failed to contain and restrain his sociopathic tendencies. It falls to us to do so.

*Paul Prenskey
Eugene*

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