

government, unnecessary war, mass species extinction, religious righteousness, etc., that so many *EW* readers are fixated on Dan Savage's column. Is it perhaps because you feel so helpless when it comes to these larger, more life-threatening issues?

Sure, there is a letter here and there addressing these topics, but come on — what are we on, three, four weeks of Savage bashing or praising? It seems to me that is past time that we as a community come together to figure out how to really begin addressing how in the days, weeks and years ahead we will even have the luxury of debating what is or isn't appropriate for a free alternative paper.

It is time to wake up, people. Our planet is burning. Can you hear the fire alarm? Or are you all so caught up in our protected lives, so full of denial that you do not want to shatter the illusion? We are all living in a coal mine — and the canary ain't looking too good.

*Indigo Ronlov*  
Eugene

**UNWILLING TO LEARN**

Four years ago, on the eve of the most recent U.S. assault on Iraq, I was part of a small group of alarmed citizens who tried to use our bodies in a last-ditch attempt to block the forward movement of war. Somehow it was clear to us (as it somehow wasn't to so many policy-makers — Sen. Clinton being just one example — who voted to invade) that the rationales provided by the administration to justify the war were fabricated and baseless. It was clear to us that an immense amount of human suffering, both here and over there, as well as an ungodly amount of precious resources, were about to be expended for no earthly good.

Perhaps one lesson there is that our decision makers in Washington should get their information from broader sources. And/or get spines. My little group tried to block the entrances to the (old) Federal Building. It was an admittedly Quixotic and symbolic attempt to shut down "business as usual" on the federal level, to send a message to our leaders that their plan was

foolhardy, dangerous and just plain wrong. Ironically, my father had officially *opened* that same building many years before by cutting the ribbon along with Sen. Mark Hatfield.

Some people chose to ridicule and threaten us for our efforts that day. We displayed large close-up photos of awful human suffering caused by previous U.S. exploits in that part of the world. Americans continue to be insular, arrogant and dangerous. When will we ever learn?

*Vip B. Short*  
Eugene

**AN APOLOGY**

Recently my letter (2/15) was published chiming in about the "Savage Love" controversy. I want to apologize for part of the content of my letter, which may have been inaccurately stated, i.e. my writing that reading "Savage Love" was like being at the "freak show." This was meant to say that the stories in the column represent what is "unusual" or out of the ordinary, but was in no way meant to suggest that they are particularly "wrong" or negative. I apologize if anyone's feelings were inadvertently hurt by the statement.

*David A. Caruso*  
Eugene

**RFK WRONG**

Greetings to my favorite weekly newspaper, *Eugene Weekly*. This letter is an angered response to Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s lies he made in his speech at the UO (Viewpoint, 3/15). While he makes many good, accurate points, he is dead wrong about two things: that compulsory public education was created at the founding of our country and that it was done out of good will for our citizens. Except for a few public schools, compulsory education did not start until 1837 in Massachusetts, and it was so incredibly unpopular that the children had to be taken from their parents at gunpoint to go to school. It is not a device to level the playing field, but to tip the scales to the industrial and governmental elite by making us obedient and dependent. The fact that school is meant to assimilate

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