

able, viable and practical options. My target audience is obviously not the super-eco-home-gardener but rather the struggling urban dweller with a vision of a better culture and a need for the inspiration to make a difference. Perhaps if Suzi had kept our interview date back last fall, she would have known this and written a more accurate review — one that readers could use to determine what *Food Not Lawns* is actually about.

And for the record: I wear gloves every time I garden!

How ironic that, though my book has received dozens of excellent reviews all over the world, my hometown magazine would deliver such a reluctant one. What about saying, "Wow! A local, low-income activist from the Whiteaker has published a book! Bravo!"

Heather Coburn Flores
Eugene

EVERYONE FOR PEACE

The peace movement *must* be all inclusive if we wish to see world peace. Logic dictates that the bellicose win conflicts, so cooperation is our tool. Only by including and actively welcoming those outside the movement will we bring a real and lasting peace. I myself, an activist, often feel excluded. We must make "them" want to join "us." When we realize that we are all "us," we can begin to make them feel comfortable. Is it fair that we should have to stick our hands out first? That doesn't matter if we care about peace. It is our obligation if we care.

Trevor Kiel Ballard
Eugene

HIGH PRICE TO PAY

It looks as if we have some tough choices to make.

Press reports indicate that Congressman DeFazio has retreated from his principled opposition to the war and instead supported the \$124 billion Iraq appropriation that he previously opposed. Apparently, he's switching his vote in exchange for a one year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act.

It's easy to sympathize with him; for the Democratic leadership to link the two funding measures is cynical in the extreme. He probably assumes that most of us (his constituents) care more about the lost timber revenues than about Iraq, which affects us less directly. The sudden disappearance of the

revenue would force all of us — not just our county commissioners — to make choices as difficult as the one DeFazio faces now. But now that the party leadership has placed us in this moral predicament, we must face it squarely.

We're being bribed, plain and simple. The questions confronting us: Will we endorse the continued occupation of Iraq in exchange for one more year of timber revenues? How much pain and suffering, how many military and civilian lives, are those revenues worth?

I think the price for the revenues is unacceptably high, particularly since the pains of war will be borne by U.S. soldiers and the people of Iraq — not by us. But it's a difficult choice and one that should be openly debated. We should let our elected representatives know where we stand so they don't have to guess.

John Edward Davidson
Eugene

DISSENT IS DANGEROUS

Lt. Watada may have a legitimate moral objection to the war in Iraq, but his choice to disobey military orders is profoundly immoral. When a person joins the military, he explicitly gives up the right to object to a particular conflict on moral grounds. This is one of the fundamental distinctions between military and civilian life.

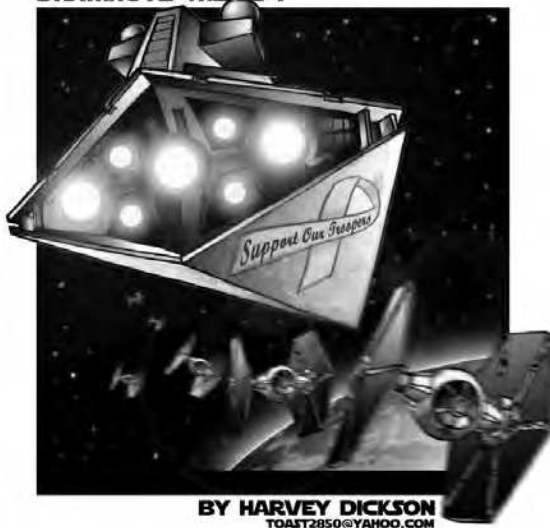
When soldiers disobey military orders, we all suffer. National security depends on military discipline. Soliders must obey their military superiors all the way up the chain to the civilian elected officials who have the lawful authority to direct the military. While we may not like the Iraq war, it does not justify undermining this bedrock principle. To demonstrate this, we need only consider the case that established this principle in military law — *U.S. v. New*. In that case, Army Spc. Michael New refused President Clinton's order to deploy to Macedonia as a U.N. peacekeeper, a conflict as dear to the political left as the Iraq War is odious.

Marty Wilde
Albany

NO CIGAR

Well, good try, *EW*, but no cigar. Your

DRAWING AS THERAPY



second ad for another so-called fetish fun bar night is clever but still completely insulting and dangerous to women. While the first ad showed a vulnerable woman tied up, this second ad is not much better. This new ad is Betty Boop in Japanese manga cartoon style — with her boobs bulging between two thick tightened belts, arms behind her, and a third tight belt squeezing her waist. Her big eyes are asking, "What's next, mister master?" What does Womenspace or anyone conscious of women's safety think of this ad trend? What is hard to understand about wanting universal safety for women? These ads promote masochistic danger to women. Who cares if you print the sincere but crude words of a gay guy interpreting everyone's sexuality for us?

Promoting demeaning images of women is serious. Even in cartoons.

Deb Huntley
Eugene

CONCENTRATING POVERTY

To Alan Pittman ("Racism Complaints," 3/22): It does not make any difference to the concentration of poverty at Adams Elementary whether a child leaves to attend alternative schools such as Fox Hollow or Eastside or neighborhood schools such as Parker or Edison. We need to deal with the underlying issues: an ineffective state revenue structure, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), parents having disparate expectations on quality education and vastly different levels of preparedness amongst children.

The liberal guilt that is fueling the alternative versus neighborhood school debate could in fact be playing into the hands to the conservative right that pushed through the NCLB. Achievement in this district and across this country is defined by how well children perform on standardized tests. Eugene currently offers parents choices. Limiting these choices without the district addressing the underlying issue that some parents demand more than a standardized curriculum geared toward taking standardized tests will lead to a rise of private schools and home-schooling, requests for a voucher system and lack of support for local bond and revenue measures.

Parents pulling their children from the public schools could lead to true concentrations of poverty; public school would then be part of the welfare state. We could then thank Alan Pittman, Nancy Willard and board members like Beth Gerot for the severe concentrations of poverty that will exist.

Tamara Torrence
Eugene

SAVAGE GETS IT STRAIGHT

Few weeks back, the father of a 15-year-old girl tells me his daughter "got drunk and got herself raped."

That afternoon, I read Dan Savage's column. On this day, Savage very bluntly explained to a young girl whose boyfriend forced her to have anal sex that she has *been raped*.

Give me Dan Savage honesty any day of the week. At least he doesn't continue the patriarchal spew and lies of blaming women for "getting themselves raped."

Sarah Ruth
Eugene

IMAGINE

I am so bored with people taking the easy way out. I propose that we agree to work through our differing opinions and agree to stop using them as reasons to inflict pain on others. Why is it that the revered, powerful and magnetic members of our society feel that it is okay to malign others in an attempt to elevate themselves? Why is it that when people feel injured by another's words or actions, often their first deed is to injure oth-

viewpoint BY PEG MORTON

Taxes for Peace II

Some do it big, some small,
some legally, some not at all

While some in our group, Taxes For Peace Not War, join others around the country who refuse to voluntarily pay all of our federal taxes, others engage in less financially risky actions. We believe that all such actions are important.

One such person was Charles Gray, who lived below the taxable income for many years, thus legally not contributing to the war machine. Another is Guy Prouty, who has refused to pay the telephone federal excise tax for about five years. He and others in our group combine our resisted telephone taxes into one check in order to give a decent amount to a worthy local organization. Others around the country choose to refuse symbolic amounts. There has been a "1040" campaign, with \$10.40 in refused taxes sent as donations to a designated national

group that serves children in need. There was also a "9/11" campaign, where people refused \$9.11 or \$91.10. The money was combined and donated to a life-giving cause. Others who pay their owed federal taxes vigorously protest, writing letters and in other ways speaking out.

Whether you are a war tax resister or a war tax protester, or if you wish to learn more, we invite you to join us outside the Eugene downtown post office on Tax Day, Tuesday, April 17, from 11 am to 5 pm. You can participate in the Penny Poll, where YOU decide how your federal dollars should be spent, pick up some literature and get some questions answered. At an event at the noon hour, several of us will publicly redirect our federal taxes to local and other groups.

And join the march sponsored by WAND on Saturday, April 14. Beginning at 10:30 am, we will walk from the IRS to the Free Speech Plaza, holding signs saying "I'D RATHER PAY FOR ____ THAN FOR WAR." It's a family-style action, and there will be an Oreo cookie graph and literature about the federal budget, plus ice cream! For more information about the WAND event, call 338-8605.

For more information about war tax resistance, visit the website for the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, www.nwtrcc.org, or locally, call 342-2914 or 342-1953.