

will give them a few billions' worth. That's money away from our health care system. We are giving so we can ferment war. Oh, but you won't print that we are giving billions to Israel to keep them quiet. In fact, here in the U.S. the media only refers to the sale as a sale to Saudi — no mention of the gift of arms connection to Israel.

Andrew Frost
Eugene

GREENHILL OUTRAGEOUS

I've been reading all these letters between citizens and Greenhill. I can't just sit quiet any longer. I used to think Greenhill would be the one place that I could recommend if someone had no other choice. These animals are pets; members of families and people pay Greenhill to take them. Greenhill is getting paid to provide a service that I just don't see them providing.

Recently I called about a dog that had been transferred from LCAS to Greenhill. Staff told me she couldn't see anything in the book she had, she'd have to go through daily reports and she couldn't right now. Nobody in the kennel was available to talk to me either. She said it would be easier if I would come in and look.

So, I drove *all the way* out there to see about this dog and finally found staff that would talk with me. She was there, but not yet "on the floor." I have yet to see this dog on their adoption list. Where is this dog? Is this dog another that was given up on and killed because it was easier than to properly care for? It doesn't seem to me like Greenhill is really doing what they want the public to think they are doing. I will not under any circumstances take an animal there. I don't see Greenhill making every effort to find these pets a new "forever home," and I am outraged.

Cherie Cahill
Springfield

A CLASS ACT

I was saddened to hear of the end of the local portion of KOPT-AM's broadcasting. From its inception just after the 2004 election, having a local presence on the air was a special pleasure. We got to hear our elected officials, the KOPT news team of Rick Little,

Sarah Ferren and Sean Shoppe were at almost every important local meeting and won a slew of AP awards, including Best Overall News for 2005 and 2006.

There were some amazing hosts: Nancy Stapp, Danuta Feiffer, Liz Kelly, Alan Siporin, even Dave Wooton. Who can forget Ron Burley's frequent appearances; or George Beres and Jim Weaver? Mac McFadden? Sally Sheklow, Mary O'Brien, the weekly astrology report, movie reviews and Bernestine Singley — the list goes on and on. We had Al Franken, Tom Hartmann and Ed Schultz come to town, and Franken again (after the private jet from Arlie conked out somewhere in Kansas and the event had to be rescheduled).

Shelley Gaske and others did yeoman service producing, bringing us Peter DeFazio and Ron Wyden, Ted Kulongoski, Kitty Piercy, Bonny Bettman, David Kelley, Betty Taylor and a huge number of key local players, including, in that famous interview by Nancy Stapp, John Musumeci himself.

We were treated to a surfeit of amazing local minds and talents.

KOPT was a class act, a real and vital parallel to the nationally syndicated shows by being a breath of fresh air and shedding sunlight on the local scene. It will be missed. Thanks, guys.

Hart Williams
Eugene

NOISE REDUCTION

I fully sympathize with the writer who complained about the trains and their constant horn blasting. I'm clear over on the west side of town, and I can hear the trains blasting their way past Fifth Street Public Market and the homes in that part of town. I have had similar experiences in Europe as he has. Early this year I rode a train from Perigeux to Bordeaux, France, which is about a two-hour

drawing as therapy

by harvey dickson



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trip. We stopped at many small towns along the way to drop off and take on passengers. We also passed many crossroads where cars were stopped to let the train pass. During this whole trip, the train did not blast its horn one time.

I doubt that writing to our City Council will help. I included comments about the noise from the trains and my European experience in a letter to the mayor and council members some months ago. However, I did not even receive an acknowledgement. It would probably be best to write to our congressmen who might be able to influence U.S. safety regulations for trains.

Wayne Pierce
Eugene

CUBA COMPARISONS

Can Cuba, a small country with a population around 11 million, teach the U.S. anything about health care? Peter Chabarek, a Eugene acupuncturist and peace activist, believes it can. On July 20 he gave a slideshow and talk at EWEB about his recent trip to Cuba.

Cuba provides its citizens with universal, single-payer health care, as do most rich countries. ("Single-payer" means the government pays the bills.) This poor, "third world" country, Chabarek said, has attained "first world" health statistics similar to those of the U.S.

Do Cubans pay high taxes to support their health care system? "They don't pay any taxes," he said. Cuba is a socialist country with the government controlling most of the economy, setting prices and wages. What would be profits in a capitalist economy such as ours in Cuba go into social services.

What can we learn from Cuba's system and adapt to U.S. health care?

- If you take the profit out of the system, you can use that money to give everyone health care.

- Cuba puts a high priority on training doctors. It has a doctor-patient ratio of 1-156. Cuba exports doctors to other countries.

- There is a heavy emphasis on preventative care to treat small problems before they become big ones.

- Medical and other services are well-organized on a neighborhood basis, keeping them close to the people served.

- Cuban medicine merges "modern" and "traditional" medicine, with doctors being trained in both.

- Their highest medical priority is a mother-child program, with extensive services for women and babies before and after birth.

Chabarek is interested in giving his slideshow and talk to other groups, and can be reached via email at frodo555@gmail.com

Lynn Porter
Eugene

ENERGY FUTURE?

Question: Who does *The Washington Post* describe as "the highest-profile corporate skeptic about global warming?" Hint: It is the only major oil giant calling alternative energy an "uneconomic" investment. The company whose former CEO (Lee Raymond) was just chosen by the Bush administration to lead a major study on America's Energy Future.

Answer: ExxonMobil.

Why is this oil company's former CEO leading a major study that is supposed to examine the viability of alternative energy such as wind, solar and biomass?

I am concerned about the impact of such a decision.

Brittney Andrews
Eugene

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