illegal work. Remember that if the work is not legitimate, the worker is probably not reporting the income. That worker and their family are still using the services — parks, police, lights, fire protection, defense, disaster aid (remember the Coburg floods?), Oregon Health Plan, etc. — and the rest of us are paying their share. It may seem to the individual homeowner that s/he is getting a "good deal" when using the under-the-table worker, but the rest of us pay for it in the long run in higher taxes, fewer services and caring for the children whose parents aren't paying child support because they don't show income.

Again thanks for shining a bit of light under this rock.

Janice M. Carraher
GM, Huckleberry Fence & Deck
Eugene

YES, SIR!

I have been reading the letters about the "Taser arrest" with some interest. Any rational analysis of the situation can place some blame on the EPD, but most of the blame should be placed on the shoulders of the protesters. I'm sorry if this isn't going to be a popular opinion in your letters page.

When a police officer gives you a verbal command, the correct answer is "Yes, sir" in almost all situations. Go back to the sidewalk, or follow whatever other simple command they give you. Maybe they are pushing you around. Bummer; they are doing their job. Follow the laws and common sense, and they will never speak to you. Eye contact and a smile works too, just like the police are real people.

When you make a verbal threat against an officer's well being, you are going to be arrested. If that threat is proven, I hope they send your little backside to jail. If you think about this, the police must place people who make verbal threats under arrest. Once you start to fight, struggle, flail around or anything else the police consider a physical threat, they must use overwhelming force to end that threat. It seems like every rational person agrees that throwing the arrested person to the ground and cuffing them was the right thing for the police to do.

If you want to place blame for the Tasering after giving a fair share to the person who was arrested, we can assess a large portion of the blame to the people who ran toward the arrest. When a couple of police officers are struggling to arrest an uncooperative person, people running toward the arrest amplify the threat to the police officer's health and safety. The nightmare is some idiot running up and attacking them from behind. If it is a dark alley, running up on busy police officers is a good way to be shot. Once there is outside interference, the police aren't going to mess around anymore. They need to stop struggling with the first clown and start bracing for other idiots potentially attacking them. The way they stopped this struggle was hitting their arrested guy with a Taser shot (or three). Without the Taser, the police would have hit him with a nightstick! The Taser is a better option, a little pain being better than broken bones.

Peter Gregory
Corvallis

COMMUNITY OWNED

Eugene needs a hospital, a community-owned hospital. Great Britain now finds itself in economic reverse with private companies taking over public hospitals and the public paying up to twice as much as necessary. The British are considering a U.K. government's private finance initiative (PFI) that would have private investors build and control 700 schools and hospitals. A [Scotland] *Sunday Herald* article calls it the "great PFI swindle. The internal financial projections for six PFI schemes show investors are expecting to recoup 12 times more than they invested. In some cases shareholders are predicted to make truly astronomical gains." The *Herald* states that economists who completed analysis of six private developments found that the Scottish hospitals and one college could have been built for half the cost. Billions of British pounds profits are expected for the 700 developments.

We are fortunate to have excellent public schools in Eugene with well-trained teachers. We have a well-educated citizenry that discusses long and hard on every important issue. Isn't it time we forget about hospitals that exist for profit and build a community hospital that truly serves the public?

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

IT'S IN THE WATER

What's up with John Musumeci these days? He moves here from California — and to put it mildly — does not fit into the community very well, e.g. the notorious Gang of 9 cartoons — just one example.

But now — he's into cluster eco-development (OK, at least semi-eco) in north Eugene; he donates land to the city for the Ridgeline Trail; he's thinking about helping acquire the Joe Green property in south Eugene to make a connector into the Ridgeline Trail.

What gives? Has he become an Oregonian?

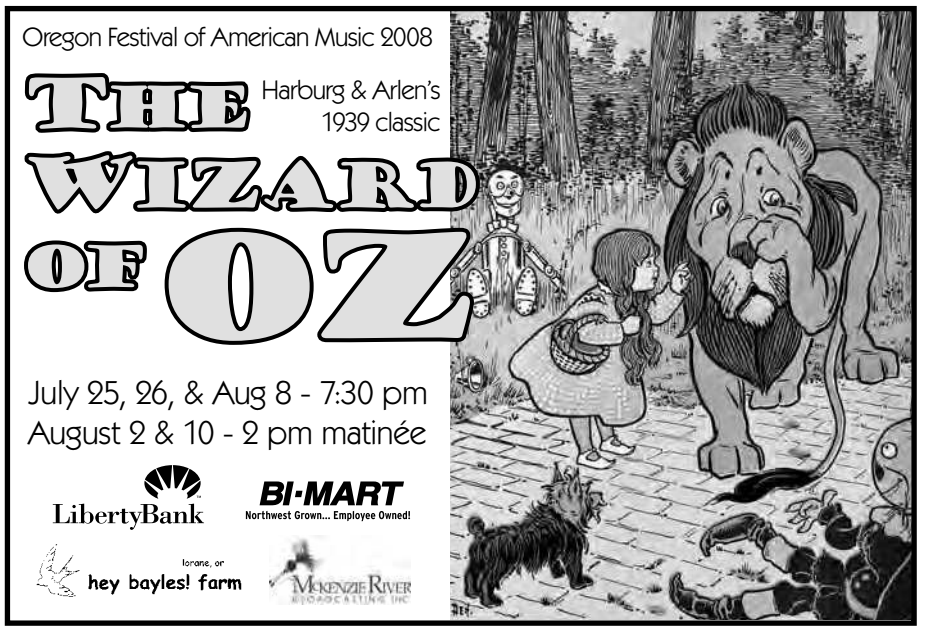
Ralph Wombat
Eugene

CARLIN'S LIGHT

George Carlin died just a couple of days after the summer solstice, when the sun starts slipping back into darkness. His own irreverent light shone for nearly half a century, illuminating the world in a manner which resonated with so many of us, and infuriated the preaching moralists and power-hungry as well. But the movers and shakers weren't his only targets; his talent was also to slice away at all of humanity's numerous faults and oddities with a brilliant, unyielding laser, and yet still manage to remain a beloved success — at least among those of us who don't take ourselves too seriously.

But not any more. So today's forecast: dark. And we can only hope there's another rising light tomorrow.

Bill Smee
Springfield

CHUCKLE FODDER

Wow, your weekly magazine (I use the word magazine because of your total one-sided views on any issue, which precludes you from being a real source of news with any creditably [sic]), it really fascinates me as you slam, twist words and even personalities so it matches what you wish people to think or feel on any issue.