



keeps it locked, lemming-like, on a course over the precipice. At times I wish Mitch was around to ask what to do, but most times I'm thankful he's not here to see it.

Warren Weisman
Eugene

JUST NOD AND DRINK

- Some summer tips:
- You gotta get a little picnic and head out to the Cuthbert to see a show. You don't have to go in — just have your picnic outside the gates and enjoy the show and your friends.
 - Take a date to the Sweet Life — enjoy.
 - Hike or bike Forrest Park up in Ptown.
 - Whitewater raft the Deschutes. Get a guide. You'll have a great time, and you won't die.
 - Best people watching places: 19th Street pub, Steelhead — must be others, but I'm forgetting.
 - Even though it's sort of gross, go out on a boat on Fern Ridge. Watch birds, watch boats, watch the water. It's no Lake Washington, but it's only 20 minutes away.
 - Eat at Mo's in Newport, and then go check out the sea lions down the street. Follow the loud barking and the foul smell. They are really fascinating. Really.
 - Hang out with a friend while they brew their own beer. Drink last month's batch as they tell you everything you never wanted to know about the difference between Willamette and Cascade hops. Just nod and drink.

Kevin O'Brien
Eugene

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

I am a senior at Sheldon High School, and I would like to address a major issue in America today: national health care. The definition of national health care on dictionary.com is "a system for the delivery of health care in which the expense of care is borne by a governmental agency supported by taxation rather than being paid directly by the client on a fee-for-service or contract basis."

The U.S.' health care is failing. It is too expensive and denies medications to many in need. If we had national health care, everyone would be getting the care

they need without having to worry about paperwork, or which doctor they can see. It would also save lives by allowing everyone to get health care, instead of only letting people who are already healthy to receive it. Right now people receive less care, face greater restrictions and spend at least \$1,500 more per person than Canadians or Western Europeans on health care.

National health care does have some cons, like increases in taxes; however, most countries with national health care tax fairly instead of having a high income tax. Therefore you wouldn't suffer much from it. I think all Americans should be granted the access to get health care. With nationalized health care, people could receive the medications they need.

Colby Quillan
Eugene

EW NEEDS LAXATIVE

What a sad waste of your space and my time! Both the Olympics themselves and the Track & Field Trials in Eugene offer so much grist for serious discussion of important issues. Political. Social. Environmental. Economic. Cultural. Perhaps *EW* felt these topics were already being explored sufficiently in the mainline media and on the Internet.

And just imagine what any of our local comedic wits might have observed and commented on. The unique persona of track fans; the clash of geographic and demographic cultures while sharing a common obsession with track and field; the demonstrators, special interest groups and Nike competitors living life on the fringes. Perhaps *EW* didn't feel its staff measured up to the comedic qualifying standard.

And so, *EW* assigned the Trials to Chuck Adams, who obviously didn't want to be there, didn't understand what was happening (or why) and was suffering from apathy, journalistic laziness, chronic constipation and, worst of all, a lack of a funny bone. His daily log was petty, ignorant, snide and painful to peruse.

If *EW* plans to do a post mortem on the Trials, I suggest you find a reporter with a better concept of what occurred, how it affected the community, etc. As part of the alternative media, *EW* has a responsibility

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