

HIKING THE AMAZON

Eugeneans are taking advantage of the late summer weather and the city's new ownership of 40 acres in the Amazon headwaters forest to take a walk in the woods. The trail through the last pristine area inside Eugene's urban growth boundary has been attracting hikers and bikers

The city agreed earlier this month to purchase the parcel owned by developer Joe Green, paying \$1.6 million for the property, a huge drop from the \$3.4 million that Green was asking for the land earlier this year. The city could have purchased the property four years ago for much less, but the city, under then-City Manager Dennis Taylor, and then-Mayor Jim Torrey, refused to counter Green's offer of \$325,000.

Lisa Warnes, a headwaters neighbor and strong proponent of the city's purchase of the parcel to preserve its natural resources, says, "It wasn't until Kitty Piercy and the more liberal City Council" that the city moved to purchase the land. "By that time, it was too late" to get the much cheaper price, she says.

There is no word yet on whether the city is making a deal on the nearby 26-acre Beverly parcel.

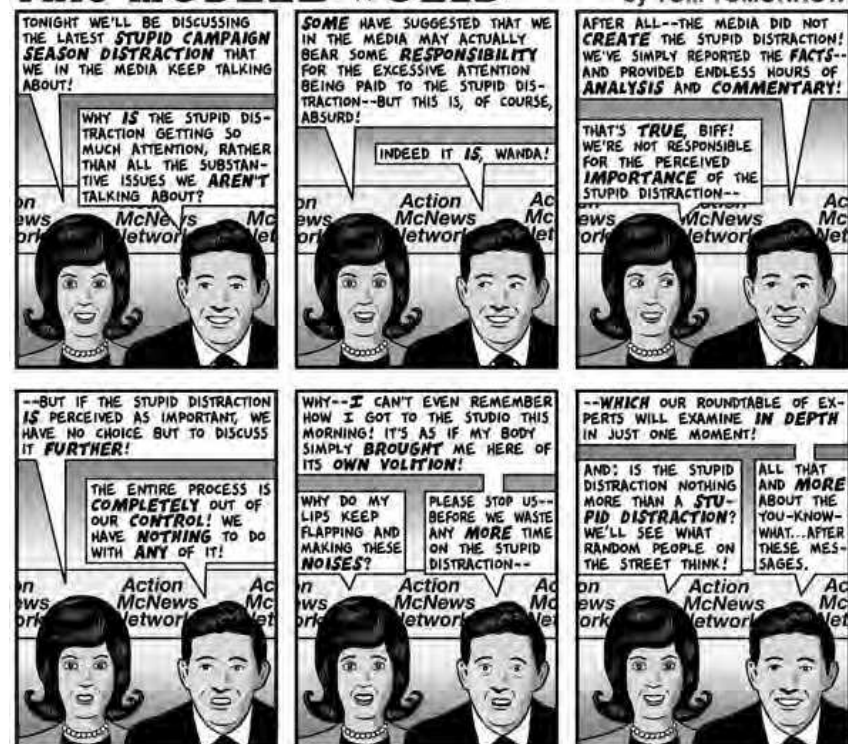
Warnes and other southeast Eugene neighbors are now working on ways to preserve and enhance the 40 acres of forest that has been protected from development. Warnes says, "We need to get the main trail out of the stream corridor, take studies and determine sensitive areas, do some mapping and monitor invasive species." — *Camilla Mortensen*



COURTESY LISA WARNES

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs



Andrea Ortiz

POLICE AUDITOR IN THE ZONE

In casting the deciding vote in favor of a downtown exclusion zone ordinance, City Councilor Andrea Ortiz said the independent police auditor was an important factor.

"We had an exclusion zone before, and it didn't work," Ortiz said at a council meeting Aug. 11. Part of that was "the way that complaints were handled" by internal police investigations. But with Eugene's new independent police auditor, Ortiz said, "there's a different way of doing business now."

"I have faith in the external auditor's office," Ortiz said. If people subject to the exclusion ordinance have a problem, Ortiz said, "they can always go to the auditor's office and file a complaint."

Actually, they can't. The auditor's office at 8th and Olive is well inside the exclusion zone. The ordinance passed by the council over the objections of the ACLU and human rights activists makes no exception for filing a complaint with the auditor over being excluded from downtown. — *Alan Pittman*

WHAT'S KILLING THE BEES?

Bees in Eugene may not currently fear extinction, but some beekeepers are concerned that it is only a matter of time. Bees pollinate about one third of the human diet, and their pollination makes possible 40 percent of Häagen-Dazs' ice cream flavors.

Philip Smith, a self-proclaimed "small-fry beekeeper," lost more than half of his colony last winter due to the *nosema ceranae* fungus. This fungus is of growing concern for local beekeepers with bigger colonies, but it is speculated that colony collapse disorder, stress from over working and long transportation are also leading to the destruction of the bees all over the world. Yet there could be more to the problem. "Stress from moving bees around has been done for over 100 years, so that's not new," Smith says. "The bees could deal with all these things but can't deal with farmers and growers with the imadacloprid."



CHANDRA LE GUE

LOGGING NEAR BLUE POOL

The trail to Tamolitch Pool is back open to hikers after a recent closure for a Forest Service salvage project, and not everyone is pleased with the results.

Tamolitch Pool, also known as Blue Pool or Blue Hole, is a quiet pool of deep blue water at the base of a mostly dry waterfall; the McKenzie river rushes out of the pool at its base. A scenic trail to the pool starts near Trail Bridge Reservoir and winds along next to the river through old-growth Douglas fir and over lava flows for about two miles. That trail was closed to hikers for several weeks during weekdays earlier this summer while the Forest Service salvage logged downed and damaged trees.

The original logging plan called for the project to take place in April to control a bark beetle infestation. Instead it occurred in late summer, which affected recreation.

Oregon Wild's Chandra LeGue says she is "disappointed" in the aftermath of the logging. On a recent trip to the popular hiking area along the McKenzie River National Recreation Trail, Oregon Wild's staff found the stump of a logged old-growth tree, damage to nearby trees, torn up trees and soil and exposed mineral soils.

Forest Service told LeGue that "they are not done with mitigation and rehab post-logging." The USFS plans to re-seed the area with native vegetation and remove residual paint from trees that were marked during the logging.

LeGue says, "While I'm certainly not opposed to all logging and understand that it can look bad for a while, I was never OK with this project and am pretty disappointed." — *Camilla Mortensen*

WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- 4,146 U.S. troops killed* (4,145)
- 30,561 U.S. troops injured* (30,509)
- 145 U.S. military suicides* (145)
- 314 coalition troops killed** (314)
- 1,123 U.S. contractors killed (accurate updates NA)
- 94,560 to 1.1 million civilians killed*** (94,553)
- \$548.4 billion cost of war (\$546.4 billion)
- \$155.9 million cost to Eugene taxpayers (\$155.4 million)

* through August 25, 2008; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly ** estimate; source: icasualties.org *** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 to 1.1 million.