

WAR DEAD

I appreciate your dedicating space in your publication each week to remembering that many lives are still being lost and negatively affected as a result of our (U.S.) military presence in Iraq.

I note that the weekly pace of destruction continues (on the U.S. side, eight more individual lives ended, 24 more individuals "injured" this week) without much public awareness or comment.

I'm not intending to focus on the morbid or minimize our hopeful moment as a nation, but I think it's important to recognize that if any one of us had lost a child/spouse/friend this past week in this way, we would be outraged.

I wonder if "support our troops" might include not forgetting that, while so many other cultural diversions grab the headlines, so many are still in very real danger — both *our* loved ones, and our "enemies" who might be our friends, if we went about things differently.

Thanks for keeping this in the dialogue.

*Don Schneider
Pleasant Hill*

SHEEP DUPE

I am seriously questioning the man-made global warming theory. The earth recycles and cleanses itself. Global warming happened before thousands of years ago, thousands of years before pollution, industry, auto emissions and hair spray.) If Al Gore has made millions of dollars exploiting created fears of global warming, then perhaps he should donate the funds earned to buy every family those special earth-friendly light bulbs that also happen to produce mercury poisoning to whomever is unfortunate enough to break one in close proximity.

Ironically Al Gore uses massive carbon emissions (more than 100 regular families in a year) every time he flies for global warming speaking engagements in his two private Lear jets. I'm sure some of these politicians are laughing their asses off on how easy it has been to dupe the sheep, meaning the masses of nonelite regular citizens.

Also I'm wondering why the scientists who oppose the "party line" always seem to end up shut up and unemployed? Decide what you will, but I prefer to investigate and research things like this before reaching any kind of rational conclusion and closing the book. Until then I'm thinking the Earth will outlast us. So let's do something we actually can control, like halting nuclear proliferation from irresponsible parties like Iran.

Doing that would give me that warm, fuzzy, feel-good pat on my own back that some people get from chronic recycling.

*Tom Busch
Springfield*

WORKING POOR

Imagine you are struggling along financially, a member of what is sometimes called "the working poor." You have no employer-provided health plan, and you cannot afford to buy your own coverage. Then consider what you would do if you developed health issues. To whom would

you turn?

For many persons in the Eugene/Springfield area, this is not an intellectual exercise. This is daily life. Fortunately, there is someplace they can go for health care: Volunteers in Medicine.

VIM provides a wide range of services, including treatment of minor trauma, prescription assistance, and mental health services. The clinic emphasizes health education and prevention, and networks with other health care agencies and institutions to which clients can be referred for additional care.

Although VIM patients are encouraged to contribute funds for their services, they are not assessed direct charges. Therefore,

financial support from the public is greatly appreciated. Because of the incredible support by local specialists and hospitals, VIM estimates that for every \$1 given to the clinic, \$3 in services are rendered.

Contribution (tax-deductible) may be mailed to VIM's Development Office at 3321 W. 11th Ave., Eugene 97402. Visa and MasterCard are also accepted.

Good things happen at the VIM clinic everyday. Lives are changed and often saved because of generous donors and volunteers. Join the "circle of caring" that makes this all possible. Please donate to Volunteers in Medicine.

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