

STOP FACTORY FARMING

I wasn't surprised to hear a report on FOX News Channel that the recent swine flu outbreak may be tied to factory farming. On factory farms, animals are crammed by the thousands into filthy sheds, which are a breeding ground for new strains of bacteria and viruses. Hans-Gerhard Wagner, a senior officer with the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, called the intensive industrial farming of livestock an "opportunity for emerging disease."

While going vegetarian is the best action that any individual can take to prevent animal-borne diseases, there is much more that our representatives can do to fight potential pandemics.

Please help fight the spread of swine flu and the emergence of new animal-borne diseases by calling on Congress to end to factory farming in the U.S.

*Curtis Taylor
Eugene*

WEAPON WORRIES

"All they that live by the sword shall perish with the sword." (Matthew 26:52) Too bad our Christian dominated society doesn't live by its own scriptures. Every weapon ever made eventually gets used. Often with disastrous results.

In Texas, students are pushing for concealed carry rights at school. There's a similar push for armed citizens in our national parks.

Why is it such a big deal when people are spotted with handguns in public places — as happened with some UO athletes at Alton Baker Park? Why do our public schools immediately lock down if someone is seen approaching with a weapon?

Could it be because intentions, rational or otherwise, are simply not visible? Does it have anything to do with so many unthinkable tragedies that have already happened and with increasing frequency? Or with the huge percent of our population taking *prescribed* brain-tweaking drugs? In most gun tragedies, the victims are related to — and often dearly loved by — the shooters. How does this fact equate to "protection?"

Do you feel ever safer as the weapons count rises?

And why does the NRA limit its own logic? If handguns and even assault rifles are valid means of personal protection, why stop there? Perhaps each (responsible!)

citizen should carry a very small nuke — you know, in case of riot or invasion?

It will get really interesting when Tasers go viral.

*Vip Short
Eugene*

GLASS-STEAGALL ACT

I would like to quote directly from Congressman Peter DeFazio's newsletter dated April 2009. "I opposed the repeal of the Roosevelt era Glass-Steagall Act, which kept Wall Street investment companies from intermingling with banking institutions."

As a retired economics instructor, I have been waiting for someone to address this issue ever since the Wall Street house of cards fell. This bill was repealed in 1999 largely through the efforts of former Sen. Phil Gramm, an economist, who believed that reducing regulation of Wall Street would regulate itself. The results of the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act have been very apparent in terms of the economic problems facing us today. This is the same Phil Gramm who was Sen. John McCain's chief economic advisor during his campaign for the office of president.

However, as important as it was for DeFazio to point out the significance of the repeal of this law, I did not see in his newsletter any mention that he or anyone else in Congress plans to introduce legislation designed to reintroduce the "firewall" that existed under the Glass-Steagall Act. I think this needs to be done and I am hopeful Congress will do so.

*G. Dennis Shine
Springfield*

PLUMB CRAZY

I've noticed a couple of local plumbing businesses and was intrigued by the graphics on their trucks. E. E. Plumbing has very nice lettering, but shouldn't it be in all *lower* case? The La-Z-Drain truck shows a mischievous youngster dropping a rubber duck down a toilet. Is that the owner's way of telling us he's from Corvallis? I wonder what Plumbing companies are DOWN in THE town of DRAIN?

*Glenn Leonard
Eugene*

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International Studies Program
Summer Session 2009**

Pre-Session

(zero week, 6/15 to 6/19)

INTL 199 Global Environmental Problems
INTL 199 Introduction to International Issues
INTL 407/507 Bollywood's Lens on Indian Society

International Weekends

Sat 9-4, Sun 9-12

INTL 399 Humanitarian Aid
INTL 399 Nation Building/Nation Wrecking
INTL 399 Global Human Rights
INTL 399 Development as Racism

Session I:

Weeks 1-4, June 22 to July 17

INTL 250 Value Systems in Cross-Cultural Perspective
INTL 399 Smuggling in Global Perspective
INTL 399 Global Sports and Politics
INTL 420/520 International Community Development

Session II:

Weeks 4-8, July 20 to August 14

INTL 240 Perspectives on International Development
INTL 260 Culture, Capitalism, and Globalization
INTL 407/507 Global Travel Issues
INTL 421/521 Gender and International Development
INTL 431/531 Cross Cultural Communication

Session III:

Weeks 8-12, August 17 to September 13

INTL 407/507 Darfur Crisis: War & Governance

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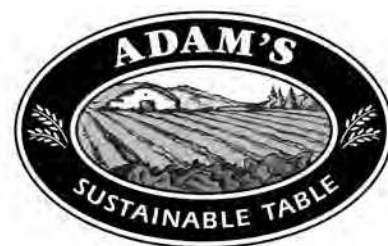


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