

off the waffle

authentic liège waffles
waffle art of the week

by:
Alex Ihnat,
Jefferson Westside Mench



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

community midwives, come and meet them, looking into the various options of birthing to help provide a more complete assessment of midwifery services available to determine what works best for each family.

Anita Rojas LDM, CPM
Eugene

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

I just got back from a week in El Salvador. The country has emerged from the wreckage of the civil war intact and beautiful. While there is still abundant poverty in the cities and the country, the roads are first rate (better than ours), the malls new and glistening, and the logo glow of U.S. corporations is awash in the night sky.

Walmart just bought the biggest grocery store chain, and you can buy all sorts of U.S. brand names there. It made me think how similar things were to home. How the Republican government had invested millions on roads and malls instead of its people, education, and fighting crime — there were armed guards everywhere, guarding businesses and the wealthy living behind iron gates.

The letters and articles each week in *EW* go on about the corrupt police, city councilors promoting development over conservation, corporate pollution, environmental degradation and private corporate interests superseding the public's well-being.

Since the police pretty much defend the interests of chemical and forestry corporations, banks and insurance brokers, the UO and Walmart, why don't these corporations pony up the money needed to build a new police station? Cops could wear corporate patches like NASCAR drivers for those special interests they're sworn to uphold, and the law, too. And while we're at it, city and county elected officials

should have to wear patches of all of their respective private interests playing pocket pool under the table. Even Alan Zelenka and Kitty Piercy should have to wear the patches from the lefty liberal south side of town, just to be balanced and on the level.

Like ancient Greece and Rome, the councilors could wear togas stitched with their corporate sponsors to throw over their work cloths. Let's shed some light on the truth, be honest for once and tell it like it is for a change.

Jonathan Seraphim
Eugene

GODLESS SOCIALISTS

Religious leaders warn us that without faith, humankind would plunge into darkness and despair. This assertion is true as long you disregard everything former Duck Dr. Phil Zuckerman has documented in excruciating detail in his book: *Society without God*. He claims that the planet's most irreligious democracies "have been able to create the most civil, just, safe, equitable, humane, and prosperous societies." That's liberal code for tree-hugging, gay-loving, dope-smokers.

Zuckerman uses lots of fancy-pants facts and statistics to confuse readers. According to Zuckerman, irreligious democracies score highest in categories such as life expectancy, economic competitiveness and rate of college/university enrollment. In the same categories, nearly all of the top 20 nations are nations with "weak religion." In the categories of lowest infant mortality, GDP per capita, economic equality, environmental protection, aid to poor nations, establishment of social justice and quality of life, it is again the most irreligious nations which make up most of the top 20.

Not surprisingly, Zuckerman cherry-picked liberally biased categories and conveniently left out vital categories which America dominates, like rich bankers per capita and rate of weekly church attendance.

America-haters like Zuckerman are gaining ground. Nearly 20 percent of Americans identify as "non-religious." Obviously they don't understand that they're going to burn in hell for eternity. That said, it's reassuring that most Christians won't vote for non-believers regardless of the fact that these heathens are some of the best and brightest.

Other than less violence, less poverty, healthcare for everyone, better public schools, better wages, better benefits, better government and a cleaner environment, you never know what America would look like without religion and unfettered capitalism.

Joshua Welch
Eugene



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