

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR

This is a letter in response to Eve Cienfuegos (7/16). I am glad that you didn't go to the OCF, Eve. However, I did. I joyfully volunteered many hours of my time to assist this wonderful festival in its manifestation, and I am proud to be a part of the Fair Family. I can only speak to my experience, and it is nothing like what you described in your letter (the only letter mentioning the OCF during this issue). I saw many people having a wonderful time with their friends and family, including small children. If your preference is to camp with few, if any, people around you, then your not attending this event would have pleased you and your family. The music this year was wonderful. I listened to Conjugal Visitors, Reeble Jar, rock, folk, junk-yard band, violins, flutes played by children. I watched fire dancers and much more. But if you don't like this, it is a good thing that you didn't attend.

As far as the garbage on the ground you speak of, I didn't see ANY of this, pre-fair or during fair. OCF has a state-of-the-art recycling program, and many people that gladly spend their Fair time helping to keep the Fair clean. Maybe your camp host needs to speak to your camp; you could lead the way in no-trace camping. It sounds like you work in a really cool place since so many people at your job do find it interesting enough to ask for time off to either attend or volunteer their own precious free time during the Fair.

As far as the illegal activities of drug and alcohol, I believe it is no more out of control than a day in town, and the sexual inappropriateness should be addressed immediately! But since you aren't attending, I can see that the Fair will be without your conscious care for children in this area as well. Now for your whole family getting FREE passes and passing up on this, next year I will pay the \$130 for the gift that you turned down, because I know many who would have loved to have been given such a miracle. Since you won't be there, be a kind hippie sister.

Cami Pray
Veneta

UNIONS AND HEALTHCARE

Alan Pittman lays out an impressive argument for single-payer health care. And he assails the usual bogeyman, the insurance companies. Without doubt, they're investing millions in lobbying efforts to protect their stake in the status quo.

Numerous letters to the editor in this and

other publications question why Democrats acknowledge the benefits of single-payer yet can't get behind it. Frustrated progressives, and Pittman, would do well to cycle back to Journalism 101. That is, follow the money.

Public employee unions have zero interest in joining us in a truly universal health care system. They're perfectly happy with their excellent, taxpayer-funded insurance. And, it's these same unions that stuff Democrat campaign coffers with hundreds of millions of dollars every election cycle.

Doubt me? Look what happened when Democrats proposed taxing individuals' health care benefits as income, which would have hit union members hard. That trial balloon was shot down faster than a cheesy pick-up line.

When advocating ANY health care plan, legislators should be forced to answer to whether they and public employee unions will be joining it.

Bruce Mackey
Eugene

SINGLE PAYER

How can we Americans be so unconcerned?

Take one look on the Internet at the vast sums of money our congressional members are receiving from pharmaceutical and medical organizations to defeat single payer health plans, and we ignore their corruption! When 70 percent of Americans need and want a single-payer health system, our congressional representatives, the already rich, get richer by voting against our wishes.

How times have changed our country. Many of us can remember when presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower dumped Sherman Adams as vice presidential running mate for accepting a vicuna coat for his wife from a lobbyist! Now our elected leaders accept millions of dollars from lobbyists, and we do nothing!

Call or write your senators: U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, 516 Hart Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510, phone (541) 431-0229. Sen. Jeff Merkley, SDB-40B Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, phone (541) 465-6750. And your U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, 2134 Rayburn H.O.B. Washington, D.C., 20510, phone (800) 944-9603. Let them know your wishes and that you are aware of massive congressional corruption.

Jerry Copeland
Florence



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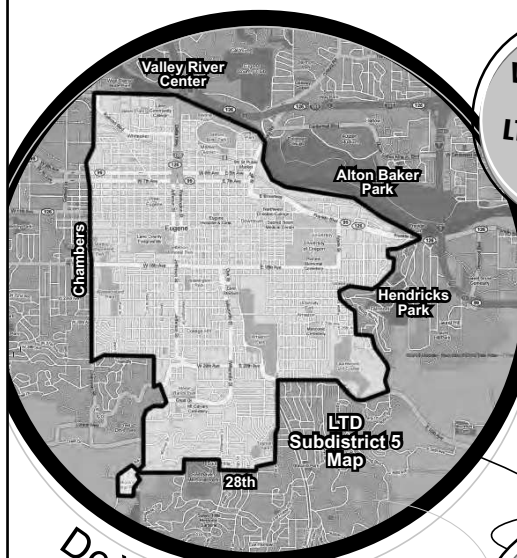




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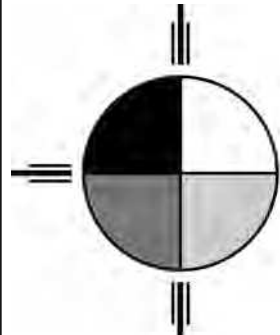
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