

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

happen. The same folks that allowed Michigan to tank are preventing our country from turning over a new leaf. Big Oil and Dirty Coal are demanding freebies and giant loopholes so that they can keep on polluting and shift the costs to ordinary citizens.

We can be Green Ducks and Sustainable Beavers if we can support this piece of legislation and let our Congress members and local legislators know that we want the American Clean Energy and Security Act to pass. It is a good piece of legislation that can lead to more investment, create new jobs, now and in the long-term.

Jocelyn Orr
Portland

NO WAY OUT

I found this cover story (8/6) incredibly naive especially the quote, "Many in the state who have lost their jobs stay put rather than look elsewhere for work." DUH! Could it possibly be that if you lose your low-paying local job you then simply do not have enough money to move?

And are these clearly neophyte writers unaware of the relocation Catch-22? Very few employers will hire you for the average job (I'm not talking corporate rels here) if you do not already live in their area, yet the vast majority of landlords will not rent to you if you are unemployed. For the average worker, relocation expenses are not an employer-paid benefit.

Wishing for Oregon to have more flexible and adaptive policies is an utterly futile waste of brain cells. I have lived here

the worse part of two decades and things have not gotten better but much, much worse especially in terms of public policy in everything from Oregon's attitude toward higher education to its barbaric treatment of its poorest citizens, the homeless, mentally ill and destitute.

Frankly most people I know who have moved here from elsewhere are desperate to leave, but the vortex of bust-and-deeper-bust (haven't yet seen a boom or even a boomlet) keeps them economically captive, without any viable choice in the matter.

A.J.B. Baldwin
Coburg

GUESS WHO'S COMING?

Authors Margheim & Ordenez' essay on Oregon's jobless ranking (8/6) was well written but omitted some key facts.

They point out that Oregon's labor force is increasing. They don't mention that much of this is due to the influx of illegal aliens into California and Oregon. These people are not Oregonians, but they are taking Oregonians' jobs. They are also bringing in most of the state's methamphetamine.

The authors list actions Oregon's legislature could take to mitigate high unemployment. They say nothing about the appalling lack of courage in Salem to deal with the illegal alien problem.

Oregon is a sanctuary state for illegals. Unlike Arizona lawmakers, our legislature is too afraid of the Chamber of Commerce, CAUSA, La Raza, ACORN and the rest of the pro-illegal immigrant camp. They refuse to even consider common sense measures



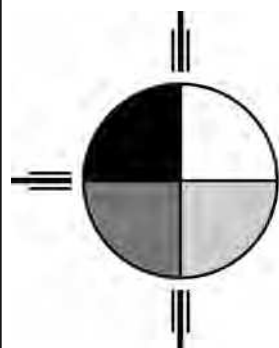
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