

heard this reason: With a single-payer system, American companies that provide health care to their workers and sell abroad would now be on a level playing field with countries that provide health care. For example, American car companies must add around \$2,000 to the cost of each car to cover their health insurance costs. A single-payer plan would reduce or remove that competitive unfairness.

Years ago while crossing Canada, our largest trading partner, I stopped at a rural doctor. I still remember the good quality of the care and the kindness I received. They have a Medicare-like health system.

I would choose a single-payer plan in a heartbeat. I can't understand why there's such a fuss. Perhaps it's because medical insurance companies are making a killing?

Les Weinstein
Eugene

GOOD PICK FOR HOUSE

Congratulations to Chris Edwards on his appointment to the Senate; another energetic, conscientious senator from Lane County. Fortunately, there is another energetic and conscientious candidate available to fill Chris' seat — Carol Horne Dennis. As an *R-G* editorial recently noted: "It's a rare opportunity for a newcomer to join a legislative delegation long dominated by familiar faces."

Carol may not be a "familiar face" to some, but she is far from unknown in community involvement. Those involvements are too numerous to list but her presence has always meant competence, attention to detail, listening, caring, and thoroughness. Add fair, friendly and accessible to the list of attributes, and you have a winning combination to continue the success Edwards established in District 14.

Lane County has been fortunate in its representatives and I was pleased to see Carol Horne Dennis put her name forward as interested in the open seat. This is an opportunity for Carol to take her talents to Salem and it's also an opportunity for the rest of us to benefit from another potentially productive legislator with a long future. We should all hope Carol Horne Dennis wins the appointment to the open seat in District 14.

Judy Moseley
Eugene

BRING BACK THE ACT

Ever wonder how those over-educated people on Wall Street managed to screw up so badly that the rest of us are facing the unemployment problems discussed in a recent issue (8/6) of *EW*? I can tell you at least one factor responsible for this fiscal meltdown and that was the repeal in 1999, at the request of former Senator Phil Gramm (and economic advisor to former presidential candidate John McCain), of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933.

This act was passed during FDR's administration to help prevent another depression from happening. The Glass-Steagall Act forbade the common practice of allowing commercial banks, such as B of A, from taking over investment banks, such as Merrill Lynch, which they recently did. People who have accounts with

commercial banks are looking for a secure place to put their money while people who do business with Merrill Lynch or other investment houses are looking for more speculative ways to invest their money. This is not a good "marriage" and would have been illegal if the Glass-Steagall Act had *not* been repealed in 1999.

Sen. Merkley of Oregon sits on the Banking Committee. Please contact his office and ask him to introduce a bill to replace the "firewall" between commercial and investment banking.

G. Dennis Shine
Springfield

IS BADGER SAFE?

Having come from a family of fair-skinned blonds and redheads, I was thrilled to read a Robert Roth's essay about "Toxic Sunscreens?" in your June 18 issue. In fact, I shared his information with relatives, and finally bought a bunch of Badger SPF 30 when I discovered some still in stock and actually on sale at a store not mentioned in the viewpoint. Apparently this piece induced a run on it at the Kiva.

But imagine my surprise when I read through the long, tiny-print ingredient list at home, and discovered Badger contains lavender oil, which is known to be estrogenic, and is therefore especially bad for young boys, much less anyone, including women at risk for or recovering from hormone-driven breast cancer. Perhaps Mr. Roth could check a little harder for a safer product? I've already thrown out all my old REI and Neutrogena sunscreens, which all contained oxybenzone!

Liz J. Andersen
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: In response, Robert Roth tells us there's doubt about lavender oil being a proven estrogenic. He says he will look into it further, and write a follow-up letter.

CAN'T CONDONE VIOLENCE

In his July 30 letter, "Managing Dissent," Johannes Pederson referenced a letter I submitted "Be Polite, Protesters" (7/2). Although this was a mistakenly printed first draft of another letter I wrote June 11, "Protest With Care," I would like a chance to respond to Pederson's criticism of its content.

Pederson's suggests that I brought up the subject of safety "to try to shift the arena of debate away from the issues the protesters are trying to raise." Contrary to this statement, I sincerely and wholeheartedly believe that confronting the threats facing the ecological integrity of the environment should be of paramount importance.

Unfortunately, 250 words isn't enough room to adequately express my opinion on the involved subjects, so I only commented on the one that I am personally most passionate about.

Although I sympathize with, and in fact share, the apparent frustration and anger Pederson's expresses about our (mis)treatment of Mamma Earth, I cannot condone the use of violence in her defense. Humanity's integrity is of equal importance to hers. They are, in fact, interdependent. Her safety and restoration will only come about through the unified cooperation of all her people and *not* through coercion and violence — threatened or actual.



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Pictured here are the children of Mountain Rose Herbs' employee, Felicia Golden (from left to right: Ariel, Talia, and Aylanna)

