

VIVA EUGENE

I picked up a copy of *EW* on my way home from the Oregon Country Fair and was once again reminded of what a great paper it is. I love the letters to the editor section and find the voices of your town have a spiritual bent that seems missing in Portland. There's a heart in your town, a caring and a spirit that is beautiful and truly revolutionary. Your writers also carry this theme in a very attractive way — enough so that I'm going to see about getting a subscription.

The Fair this year was my best ever. For me, it's a yearly chance to reunite with my closest friends, share stories, heal what's ailing me, luxuriate in the Ritz (saunas/showers) and share my music, massage and coaching skills with those I meet. I posted a description of my experience with pictures at <http://albertideation.com>

I want to thank all of the volunteers and staff who put hours and hours and their sweat and muscle to make the Fair the magical place it is. I only wish it were longer — I could live at the Fair for a week and imagine that our Fair community would learn more, get more inspired and figure a lot more out if we had more time together. Burning Man and Rainbow Gatherings bring people together for 10 days, and it seems to help on a lot of levels. Longer events also benefit the local economies greatly. Example: Gerlach, Nev.

Now back in Portland, I exhale and smile at all that I learned and shared at this year's Fair. As I reserve books that were recommended at the library, share photos with friends and wear my new clothes and hang up new art, I feel heaps of gratitude that I have such a magical event in my life and look forward to next year.

Thanks Eugene, you have something special going on, and I am glad to get to partake. Viva Eugene!

Albert Kaufman
Portland

BIOMASS BURNS

Flabbergasted? So our elected officials are flabbergasted that the EPA is finally setting emission fines for biomass wood

burning plants. The American Lung Association and our Lane County Health Advisory Board warned about unhealthy air from biomass plants, and it isn't just 200,000 tons of CO₂. We will breathe fine particulates, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide, arsenic, benzene, lead, dioxin, formaldehyde, mercury, styrene, chromium, etc. Our Seneca 18-megawatt plant just north of Eugene will bring us more than 500 tons of pollution burning 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I would much rather have field burning than continuous pollution to breathe every hour of the year.

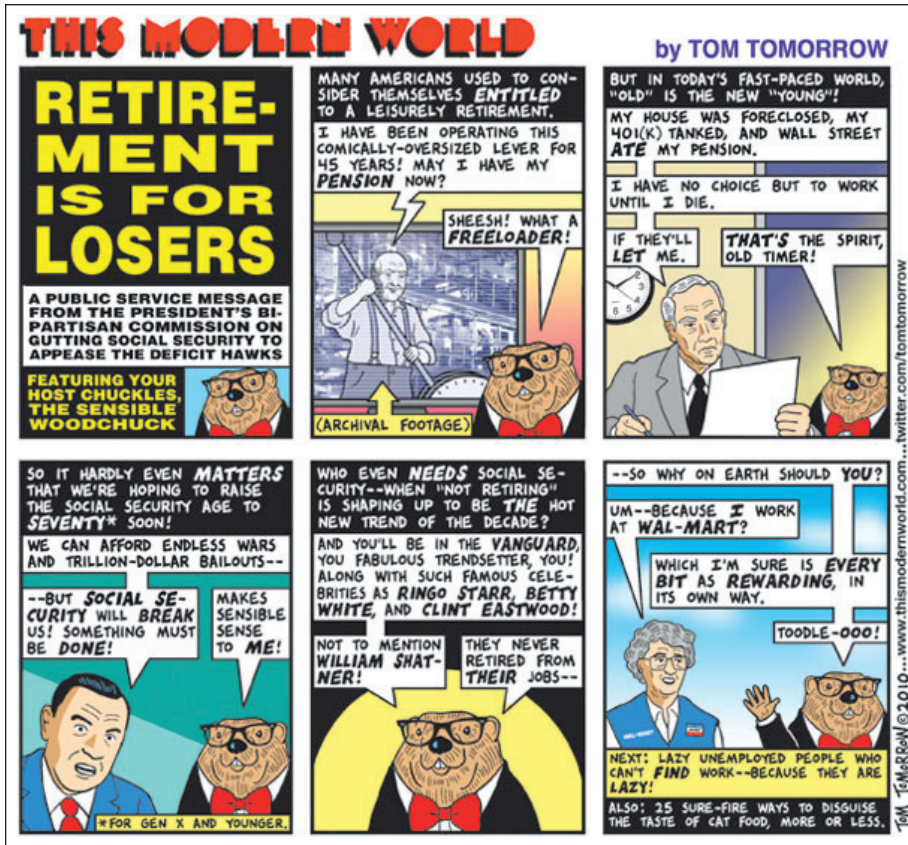
Our elected officials should be sued by all of us having difficult days breathing in our valley, for allowing Seneca and all the other proposed biomass plants for Oregon. And to think that our taxes are paying a good part of their construction, and future utility bills will guarantee a financial reward. Please don't add to my angry objections by saying this is only wood waste that would be burned anyway or stupid statements such as we won't be burning trees or that it is carbon neutral. After 20 years of involvement in air pollution legislation with scientists such as Dr. Arie Haagen-Smit of Caltech and the California Air Resources Board, I have to say this is a huge mistake! If only Haagen-Smit were alive today, this would never have happened.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

OPINIONS AREN'T FACTS

Oh my. Regarding Mr. Zeppa's letter July 8, one cannot arbitrarily decide one's opinions are facts and have it accepted with no debate. Mr. Zeppa, you most certainly have the right to express your opinion; you may even redefine the definition of "fact" if it suits your purposes. That does not make your allegations factual. Would you care to substantiate your claims? You have proof Republicans at the national level are selling their sexual favors for money?

President Obama has never said one positive thing about the U.S.? "And what



keeps me going — what keeps me fighting — is that despite all these setbacks, that spirit of determination and optimism — that fundamental decency that has always been at the core of the American people — lives on." From Obama's State of the Union address Jan. 27.

How about an easy one — Obama is not qualified to occupy the office of president on what basis? How do you prove "economic hope" or lack thereof?

Really sir, spout whatever opinions you like — that does not make them true and/or factual. I look forward to your rebuttal.

Iris Silver
Eugene

SAVE ALL THE ANIMALS

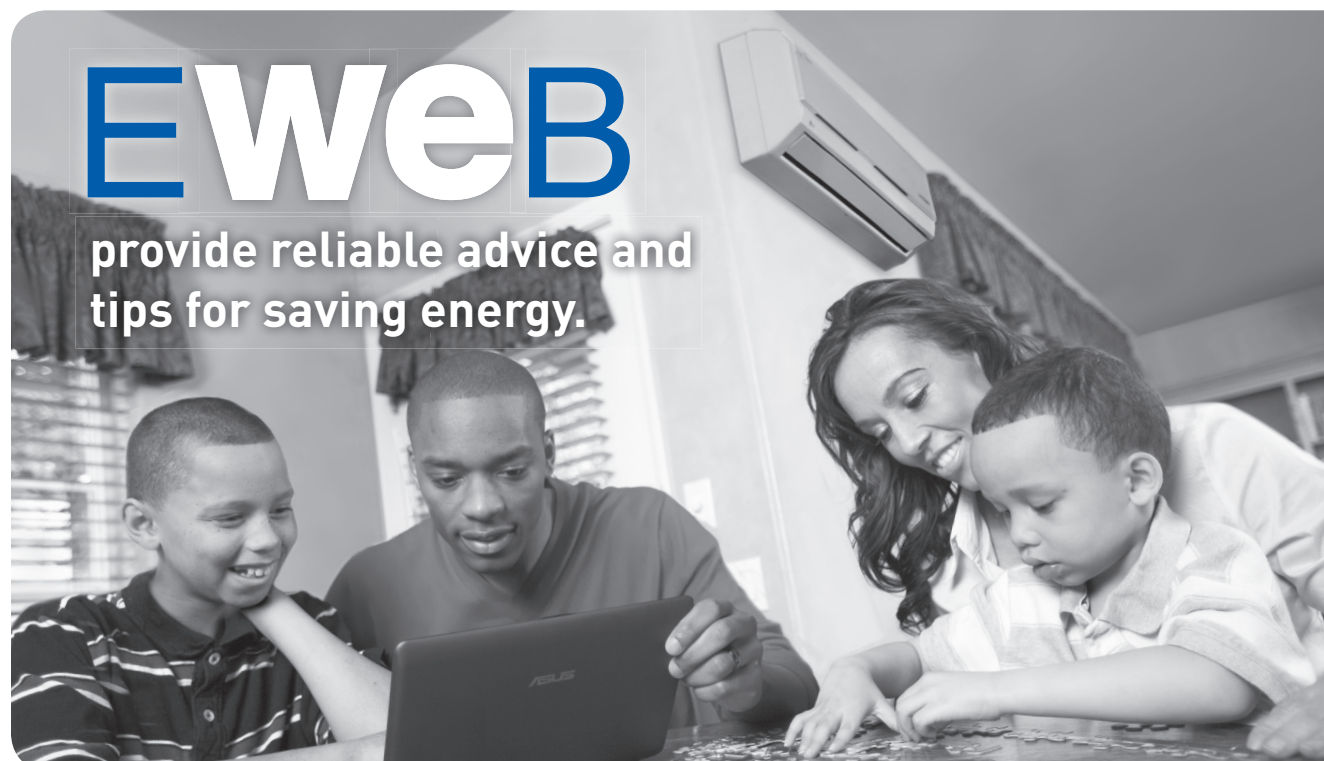
I'm glad Joshua Welch discussed meat from locally raised animals as well as from those suffering in factory farms. Cows, pigs, lambs, goats and chickens do not want to die even if they are "local." Being raised for meat, they certainly are slaughtered in

the prime of their youth while their flesh is still tender — three to eight months in the case of lambs.

It's so easy not to eat animals with all the incredible choices of great vegan food around, from falafels to tempeh bento (two of my favorites). When I gave up meat at age 17 (I'm now 53), I thought having no hamburgers would be tough, but soon I discovered what I really liked about burgers was the condiments, so I occasionally have a vegan griller smothered in fried onions and ketchup.

I would also like to know where the forests would grow and where wild animals would live if everyone ate animals raised on pasture? Just think about all the fuss cattle ranchers are making about 14 wolves in Eastern Oregon! The fact that a vegetarian diet is good for my health (I still do all the physical labor except logging on my 130 acres of forestland) is just frosting on the cake (vegan, of course).

Mary Jane Hildreth
Sweet Home



EWEB

provide reliable advice and tips for saving energy.

Here's a tip from the Eugene Water & Electric Board:

Install a ductless heat pump to replace your baseboard, wall, or ceiling heat.

A ductless system will use 25% to 50% less electricity than these other heating systems—plus you get air conditioning. EWEB's ductless heat pump program offers qualified homeowners either a \$1,500 rebate or a 0% loan up to \$4,000. For more info, visit eweb.org.

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