

them. Most communities in the world do not have that luxury. That's their problem, but it may become ours if a member of one of those outside communities rises up and claims power. Then we have a non-musical head of state, someone who will never appreciate a beautiful bus stop face seen in passing. Then suddenly it's our problem.

And that's the problem as I see it.

*Belle Springs
Eugene*

ADD UP THE COSTS

My comments are limited to the quote in your cover story on Oregon health care (12/8): "Rogers says that in the U.S. more than 30 percent of health care spending goes to administrative costs, not actual health care."

As an accountant with extensive experience in examining the records of doctors and health-care facilities, I see this 30 percent figure as way too low. The total administrative cost would easily exceed 130 percent. The only fair way of determining the total administrative cost of health care is to add up the administrative costs of everyone: all medical personnel, hospitals, patients, Medicare, insurance companies and everyone else involved, especially the patients and their families. Just the costs to patients and their families would be a substantial amount of time, effort and money.

Medicare will tell you their administrative expenses are less than 10 percent and the insurance companies will tell you the same thing. I say to all of them: bullshit! Go to any medical facility and count the number of doctors, nurses, technicians and laboratory personnel. Then count everybody else — they will easily outnumber the medical personnel. And even then, the doctors, etc., will spend a lot of time protecting themselves against lawsuits, dealing with Medicare and insurance companies, etc. — more administration.

The only long-term permanent solution is to get the insurance companies out, get all governments and politicians out, get the lawyers out. Put the entire health-care system in a single-payer nonprofit organization with strong oversight and transparency, lots of public participation and volunteers, and



dispute resolution by non-lawyers and non-medical people. Allow all medical personnel to "provide medical care," not politics or bookkeeping.

*Frank Skipton
Springfield*

HORRIFIED NEIGHBORS

Named for one of Dexter's early settlers, Parvin Butte has both historical and geographical significance. It is one of the landscape features that distinguishes Dexter from, say, nearby Lowell or Creswell or Cottage Grove. And no doubt it's borne the footprints of many locals, Indian and settler alike, attracted by the all-points view its top provides — and by the seclusion it offers for those seeking a closer view of their climbing companions.

For Greg Demers and the McDougal Brothers, however, it's no more than a pile of rock to be crushed and then transported to the coast for various construction projects. A new site on Greenhill Road for transfer of Parvin basalt to railcars, and other sites owned by their company or companies along the soon to be upgraded rail line from Eugene to Coos

Bay, have the full support of Oregon State Sen. Floyd Prozanski.

So weak is the law and so anemic its enforcement that, having already clear-cut the trees on it, Demers/McDougals are daily removing a local icon without a county site review or permit, within close view of horrified and frustrated neighbors and beside Class 1 Lost Creek and its endangered Willamette spring Chinook. After the butte is flattened, these scofflaws intend to chop what remains into residential lots.

For the McDougals and Demers, who own thousands of acres all over Lane County — and the McDougals, at least, own thousands more throughout the Western states region — landscape destruction is standard business practice, as are the public costs: clear-cut and eroded soils, polluted streams, devastated neighbors and wildlife and further global warming. Demers/McDougals are also partners in Willamette Water Company, a quasi-municipal water source seeking to supply and control the water going to Goshen, Creswell, Cottage Grove and vicinity, whether or not they want or need it.

The butte owners have appealed the minor

finances the county has assessed for their illegal mining. A hearing is scheduled for 2 pm Thursday, Jan. 5, in Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave.

*Robert Emmons
Fall Creek*

BLAMING VICTIMS

I camped with Occupy Eugene for 12 days until the city evicted us. Letting the homeless stay in nature is the opposite of corruption, so homeless camps are wholly compatible with the protest. The long-term homeless don't pay rent by working for companies which aren't free of corruption. Nature is the healthiest environment. More neurons grow in nature. Healthier people have less need to carelessly use drugs, some of which are natural trauma remedies when used wisely. Trauma or stress comes from unhealthy biorhythms.

The city forced very unhealthy air pressure waves on occupiers by imposing very noisy generators to power floodlights. That noise blocked cries for help to prevent the fatal fight that closed the camp. Floodlights also attract stragglers at night. They make it look like a lit-up, inviting party. The people who imposed those safety hazards blamed their victims. That's the height of corruption, which means going along with the prevailing group even when it can't clearly discern what's best for the whole. Giving people truly free choice enables the most harmonious nervous system functioning. Each occupier's presence enabled the others to live there too. Such mutual appreciation is healthiest, as ECGs and EEGs can prove. The city didn't care to measure the unhealthy effects of noisy generators.

When vulnerable people yearn for protection, it's a shocking betrayal to realize how ineffectively police and cities care. Poverty emerges when companies and governments take over people's homes in nature. Nature freely gave food from plants and trees, and clean water in streams and dead wood for energy. People who work for such companies enable the corruption. That's the real problem.

*Irene Cardenas
Eugene*

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