



before picking up their belongings and carrying them around like a turtle. The other need is the opportunity to participate, which fosters self-worth. A unique aspect of the encampment is that it was co-created. Everyone there had the opportunity to participate in making decisions and in their implementation. They had an opportunity to be heard and to be useful. They were creating a sense of community.

I, for one, will miss the colorful tents and tarps of the encampment. They were hardly an eyesore; rather, they caught one's attention and were a reminder that there are many today who have no roof over their heads. I recommend that the police, the city and its better-off citizens all go back and read to the end the stories of the Grinch and of Scrooge and take to heart the lessons learned therein.

Patricia Diehl
Eugene

NOT ANOTHER BUSH

I am writing this in response to the Slant item (12/22) about the 2012 presidential race. The part that was so infuriating: "If you're one of those independent voters who doesn't yet have a favorite candidate in the 2012 presidential race, try these names. Jeb Bush is surfacing again ..."

After all that was done under the reign of George W. Bush and his father (not even going to mention Prescott here), the author of this piece has the audacity to throw Jeb Bush's name at the fine citizens of Eugene.

I don't know what is more of a travesty, seeing the influencing words of EW endorsing a Bush family member who isn't even running or completely ignoring Ron Paul as a choice in the GOP.

Not a single mention of the fine congressman who is surging in the polls and is currently polling at #1 for the upcoming Iowa caucuses. The top contender, front runner and role model to many freedom-loving Americans has seen a major media blackout and it saddens me to see the influence here in my hometown.

I feel as though we the people of Eugene have been paid a huge disservice by one of our cherished news sources. I put into question the motives behind the publication. Please show us you have the peoples' best interest at heart and make it

up to us somehow.

Tommy Newton
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: We didn't endorse Jeb Bush, just wrote about his rise in stature among Republicans frustrated by the current lineup, including Ron Paul.

PAINFUL TRUTH

Like many Americans I am disgusted with the ineptitude of our Congress, corporate greed and shady bank deals that have helped push our country to the very brink and for the most part send us into our generation's more toned down version of the Great Depression. I was heartened initially when the Occupy movement started and was glad to see there was some piss and vinegar in the younger generation (as well as some old timers)

I think many people are yearning for a focus for their anger and disappointment with the direction of American politics and social justice. But there are elements to the Occupy movement that are discrediting the rest of what could be a powerful and elevating forward progression.

After reading the Dec. 22 cover story "Disenfranchised" by Camilla Mortensen, I catch myself saying "Good God! Lane County is bursting with social services and yet still people bitch about it," or "Why are taxpayers on the hook for a trashed park filled with angry Occupiers with needles, fights and general chaos breaking out?" I have worked with the homeless and I'm very sympathetic to the crushing blow of losing one's job (I lost mine two and a half years ago). But the world doesn't owe you jack squat. So if social services aren't up to snuff maybe you should just be thankful there are any services available at all! Lane County is one of the better places if you are hard up.

And if you're really serious about changing the world, start by elevating your own movement, focus your statement and stop acting like spoiled kids.

Patrick Kavaney
Eugene

TARGETING THE RICH

Hurrah for the Occupy Eugene protesters who carried their fight to the home of City Councilor George Poling Christmas night. Taking the fight directly to the people who are part of the problem is, in my view, an excellent strategy. These

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