

to install wireless smart meters on nearly every house in Eugene I wondered, what's in it for the people of Eugene? So far, I've found only one answer: People will be able to watch second-by-second fluctuations on their meter and adjust their energy usage accordingly. EWEB is promoting smart meters as a green technology that will benefit everyone. But if there's any truth to that claim, shouldn't we see clear evidence in places already outfitted with smart meters?

So far, the millions of smart meters installed in California by PG&E have yielded no environmental benefit. PG&E admitted in their own audit report that "no energy savings could be demonstrated." In addition, people living in smart-meter equipped houses are reporting health problems including sleep disturbance, headaches, ringing in the ears, heart palpitations and trouble concentrating. Bees, plants and pets may be just as vulnerable to the around-the-clock pulses of radio frequency radiation.

As more people become aware of this infant technology, more light is shed on the health risks. Smart meters deliver full-body radiation at levels 100 times greater than that of a cell phone. And there's no off button.

For these reasons, I repeat my plea to EWEB. Please do not put a smart meter on my house, or on the house of anyone you care about!

*Brian Bender
Eugene*

THINK ABOUT IT

I agree with the stance that the health hazards smart meters present have not been adequately reviewed (see Slant last week). Another issue that no one mentions is the fact that this technology is one that is rapidly changing. Who has the same computer or cell phone they were using 20 years ago? Think about it. Even the cell phones go out of date more rapidly than computers do!

These smart meters should be way outdated before they will be paid for! And who will EWEB be asking to pay for the upgrades as they become necessary?

*Lorna Vinson &
Jim Carpenter
Eugene*

SLAVERY CHOCOLATE

First Alternative Cooperative in Corvallis is holding its annual voting. If you're a co-op member, please participate. Ballots will be available at either store if you don't receive a ballot in the mail by late May. Ballots are due by June 15.

This year the ballot includes an important referendum to set explicit standards for the products containing chocolate that are sold at our store. The reason is the serious problem with child and adult slavery on cacao plantations on Africa's West Coast.

Former co-op board members, local leaders in the sustainability movement, respected local educators and social justice advocates signed the petition that initiated the slavery chocolate referendum. The passage of this referendum will further



**Dan Hicks
& The Hot Licks**
Friday, June 8

The Shedd Institute
www.theshedd.org - 541-434-7000

The Eye Center
John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD



Dorothy Fields - Cy Coleman - Neil Simon - 1966

Sweet Charity

June 14, 15, 16 - 7:30 pm, June 17 - 2 pm

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Music direction by Robert Ashens



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