

world,” are too corrosive for baby oysters to survive. They deny the 97 percent of climate scientists who concur that humans are a significant contributing factor to global climate change. They deny the Koch brothers-funded study that agreed with the scientists. They even deny the CEO of Exxon, Rex Tillerson, who told stockholders that man-made global warming is real and caused by burning fossil fuels.

The harsh reality is that man is changing the climate of the Earth. Covering your eyes and ears and speaking evil of those who don't deny reality won't make the truth go away, no matter how inconvenient it is. Extinction is forever.

That's the harsh reality.

*Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain*

ATTACK ON BASIC RIGHTS

Workers' rights are human rights! Despite the rhetoric from Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and the Republicans, their attack on the teachers and other state workers is not a sign of strong leadership. It is an attack on basic human rights of the working people of Wisconsin. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed by U.S. and most of the countries in the world, states, "Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

Taking away the collective bargaining rights of workers, who of their free will formed an association in order to gain fair pay, health care for their families, pensions for their old age and decent working conditions is a blow to every working person in this country.

As a country that has supported human rights struggles throughout the world our credibility has been badly damaged. How can we tell other countries to honor their citizens' human rights when a governor of a state and the Republican candidate for president have carried out and endorsed a violation of a basic human right here in America?

All workers, unionized or not, deserve to be treated fairly in the workplace. And at

a time when money equals political power, working people need a strong organization that will promote their interests in the political arena.

*Pete Mandrapa
Eugene*

LACK OF VISION

I'm truly unhappy about the sale of the property and gift of millions in tax breaks to Capstone. I think this decision was made hastily, benefiting outside developers. It feels like the UO has been changing the demography of our community through its "needs." My concern is that this will tip the balance of in-town residents toward a larger population of part-timers; ones who are less invested in the image and long-term health of the city's core. It is now seemingly a done deal, one for the history books to gauge, a social experiment in the making.

I'm glad to have that piece of property renewed but feel the choice of tenants was "low-hanging fruit." I am one who believes that there needs to be more mixed income housing for retiring seniors, now downsizing and looking for sustainable housing in town, year round.

I recently read that Ashland was in the top 10 U.S. communities for retirees and I'm sure that's because there is a *there* there. Albany is renovating its downtown to support the wonderful new carousel and the museum to house it. We have historic opportunities to focus on along with cultural organizations that are growing. I know there are many reasons that our growth has stumbled over the years; I just wish we could get a "big picture" of ourselves rather than growing by accident. There must be some new juice in this town to help us create some new vision.

How about a "vision box" at the Eugene Celebration? Ask for concepts or brands. I know how hard it is for Eugene to come together on anything, but for this old town hippy, hope springs eternal. My entry is Somewhere Under the Rainbow.

*Martha Snyder
Eugene*

A Giant Step Backward

The ACA enshrines our dysfunctional system

The Affordable Care Act survived the Supreme Court, but we should not celebrate yet. Congress designed the ACA to sell more health insurance policies, and it will, but we should not mistake health *insurance* for health *care*.

If you can't afford a policy and government cutbacks remove your subsidy, your family doesn't get health care. If you spent your last dollar on premiums with no money left for deductibles, your family doesn't get health care. If illness prevents you from working and you lose coverage, your family doesn't get health care.

The ACA will indeed succeed in selling more policies even with Supreme Court modifications. However, it will not make policies less expensive, care more affordable, or care more accessible.

The ACA is modeled directly upon Romney's Massachusetts plan. What has happened there since 2006? Over 95 percent of Massachusetts residents now proudly own an insurance policy; however, health has not improved. Medically related bankruptcies have not gone down. Lives lost to treatable diseases have not decreased. And health care costs have continued to rise uncontrollably since the law was enacted.

We can expect no different from the ACA. Instead, the ACA deepened the dependence of healthy Americans on private insurance for access to health care. Dr. Marcia Angell, former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, refers to the "tyranny of the healthy," in which healthy, insured Americans fear any change will remove what they believe is their only protection against medically related financial catastrophe. What healthy Americans don't appreciate is most personal bankruptcies are precipitated by medical crisis in families *with health insurance at the time the crisis began*. Oregonians suffered 12,000 medically related bankruptcies in 2009 affecting 34,000 family members. Most debts in collection agencies are medically related. The ACA changes nothing.

The ACA is giant step backward for health care. First, it enshrines private health insurance as the only way most Americans get health care. Next, it imposes huge impediments on states like Oregon which want better care than the ACA can provide. Any project must wait until 2017, long after spending millions of dollars for exchanges. Even then, special waivers are required.

Every other industrialized nation provides better care to more people for less money than we do. All use variants of publicly funded universal health care, many of them single payer. If we need to radically alter health care to produce better access for less money with better results, we should model ourselves on *working* systems, not *dysfunctional* systems. The ACA expands the most dysfunctional system in the world.

Reform advocates want Oregon to do better. We want health care access for everyone. We want lower health care costs. We want our dollars to improve the health of our families, not the health of insurance companies.

Please tell your state and U.S. representatives you want publicly funded, cost-effective health care for every Oregonian. The ACA won't do it. It's up to us.

Samuel Metz, M.D., is a Portland anesthesiologist. He is a member of Mad As Hell Doctors and Physicians for a National Health Program; both organizations advocate for single-payer health care. This commentary was written for EW.

SALE
Thursday, July 19–Monday, July 23
SAVE 20-70%
on discontinued styles and colors of Dansko, Keen, Chaco, boots & more!

GARAGE SALE Choose from a selection of previously worn or slightly flawed shoes.

SUN-MON SAVINGS Save an additional 20% on remaining sale merchandise Sunday and Monday.

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Kent A. Karren, MD




John Mayall
Thu, July 19

Sarah Jarosz
Tue, July 31