

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Glassbar Island are wonderful treasures that are loved by many, and we must be allowed to get there without having to take a boat! Please also write and/or call the Lane County commissioners and come express your opinion at the board meetings, especially the meeting on March 19.

Alice Stroud
Eugene

40-YEAR STRUGGLE

Section 1 of the Oregon Constitution reads, "all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness."

As a longtime resident of rural western Oregon, I can attest to the utter disregard for the inherent rights of "we the people." For more than 40 years, we have been pleading with the government to protect us from the common forest practice of spraying toxic chemicals from helicopters to control weeds. The usual response from government officials is that this dangerous procedure is legal. Corporate rights trump community rights.

How is this possible? The short answer is that corporations and their owners purposefully created a structure of law that protects them from community control and shields them from the cornerstone of our constitutional rights as stipulated in Section 1.

Corporate rights shall not continue to override our constitutional rights. Inspired and guided by Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (www.celdf.org), communities across the nation are organizing to demand our constitutional rights. Local ordinances protecting people from unscrupulous corporate practices exist in 150 communities today. When we wake up to the notion that power is inherent in the people, there is no turning back. Stay tuned, Lane County.

Michelle Holman
Deadwood

BORING, DULL AND DEAD

I enjoy Tony Corcoran's commentaries on the Oregon Legislature. But he needs to focus on the really important bills instead

of the ones dealing with trivial stuff such as guns, the budget, etc.

As one of those evil lobbyists, part of my job is to review all legislation. The most important bill I've seen so far – bar none – is House Bill 2352. It designates Aug. 9 of each year as "Boring and Dull Day." It recently passed the House on a 59-0 vote with one excused.

The negative implications of 2352 should be obvious to residents in Eugene and certain territory around Veneta. As everyone surely knows, Aug. 9 is already a sacred day: the anniversary of the death of patron saint Jerry Garcia. You can see the problem here. Jerry was many things but certainly not "boring and dull" (at least not around these parts). There will undoubtedly also be scheduling and traffic issues with the two celebrations happening on the same day.

There are other bills in the current session that might warrant a casual glance, e.g., dozens to impose new or higher taxes or fees, even more saddling state agencies with new tasks (costing more dollars) and others invading our privacy and taking away our rights. But these pale in importance to HB 2352.

I'm hopeful that Tony will address this matter in an upcoming commentary.

Jerry Ritter
Secretary & Legislative Affairs Rep.,
Oregon Communities
For a Voice in Annexations

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those not tracking the Legislature, the "Boring and Dull" bill would commemorate a partnership of sorts between Boring, Ore., and Dull, Scotland.

NO BUZZ, NO PEEPS

Albert Einstein was quoted saying, "If bees disappear man will have no more than four years to live." Bees are much more than just the honey they make. One study cited in *The New York Times* states that annually bees pollinate more than \$14 billion worth of seeds and crops in the U.S. alone!

Colony collapse disorder among our honeybees has been a concerning problem in over 24 states and yet hardly any large-scale media attention has been drawn. Every year

The Shedd Institute

www.theshedd.org - 541-434-7000

The Eye Center

John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD

Siri Vik

My Funny Valentine

The Life & Lyrics
of Lorenz Hart

Thu-Sun, March 14-17

B&B

HOME COMFORT

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The Contemporary Songbook Project

Evyne Hollens
Shirley Andress
Shannon Coltrane
Bob Cross
Bill Hulings
Tyler Ankenman

Evyne Hollens

Friday & Sunday
April 5 & 7

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Molly Ringwald

Friday April 12

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