

for himself — just as the Tea Party grossly exaggerates its support within both the Republican Party and the country as a whole. Ironical? Sure. But the GOP leadership better watch its collective back. As should we all.

Keith A. Eddins
Eugene

AVOIDING REAL CHANGE

In response to Jerry Ritter's letter [10/3] about immigration amnesty vs. SNAP (food stamps): If I listen closely and with compassion to Mr. Ritter, I can see that his intention is to support the well-being of the poor. Unfortunately, he is falling into a trap that the rich have constructed for decades in order to prevent real change.

Immigrant-bashing is today's legal and socially acceptable racism. Racism has always been used to separate the poor from each other in order to prevent them from effectively creating real change in an economic system which enriches a few at the expense of the many.

We do not need to argue over the scraps offered by Big Business and the corporatized government system. We (the presumably white, American poor) are not being harmed by them (the presumably brown, foreign immigrants). We are, however, all being harmed by racism, which stops us from banding together with our natural allies to change the system which keeps us impoverished.

Let's all think a little deeper about how we can stop blaming people and start creating allies for real change.

Kara Huntermoon
Eugene

WAITING FOR MY BANG

Salinger's angsty protagonist Holden Caulfield said that he really liked his elderly teacher, Mr. Spencer, and his wife because they really "got a bang out of things." As a recent college graduate entering the (non)working field, I must contend that older folks — and the baby boomer generation in particular — have gotten bang! after bang! bang! from life, and that my generation is holding its breath in anticipation for just one good bang! That bang is, for me at least, please God, a job that pays enough to cover half the kind of life enjoyed by the previous generation.

I appreciate the standard of living guaranteed to boomers, and I thank the union organizers and activists that made it possible. I appreciate less the sweatshops and Banana Republics of Latin American and elsewhere — which also made such a way of life possible.

As crazy as it may sound, I have a few horse-sense, baseline suggestions for collective consideration: 1) "Two in, two out," not a top-down China-style government dictate, but what we can do as responsible members of the 21st century, 2) 20th-century realpolitik governments should fight corporations and put the general welfare above private profit, 3) we should re-evaluate whether our tech gadgets are worth propping up corporations that support communist slave labor, and 4) support youth activism in labor organizations and other peaceful, civic

organisms who can build international support for a worldwide worker's Bill of Rights.

In short: individual re-evaluation, community obligation, collective collaboration. 1-2-3-4 — let's go.

Steve Coatsworth
Eugene

WHY GROWL?

As a long term enjoyer of local brews, I remain curious about the prices of growlers at Eugene breweries. Why does it cost more for a growler of beer to go than a six pack of the same beer at a convenience store? Shouldn't the addition of materials and labor in the form of canning or bottling, as well as the addition of a middleman, make the growler cheaper than the six pack? After all, a six pack (72 oz.) contains more beer than a growler (64 oz.). It seems like this model encourages waste.

Todd Tucholke
Eugene

SAME OLD MADNESS

The extreme right wing of the Republican Party is hell bent on stopping health care to 23 million of Americans who don't have health insurance. I bet that most of them already have their health insurance, so what do they care about uninsured people, children and those who were denied Social Security benefits who are truly disabled? All the Republicans against Obamacare are sitting pretty with their huge insurance packet. Why not stop their benefits? Its the same old song, still mad at our first black president. Well, you better get ready for the first woman president, cause Hillary is in the wings. Can you imagine the uproar?

Why would anyone want to stop health care for all the uninsured people? Downright meanness.

Diane DeVillers
Eugene

SELL LOCAL?

I had a thought while reading that Ninkasi is taking advantage of foreign and domestic trade shows to sell its beer far and wide [Biz Beat, 9/26]. We "consumers" are trying hard to "buy local" whenever possible. Maybe businesses should be urged to "sell local" for the same reasons that we try to buy locally produced goods.

Ed Cooley
Elkton

CONTEMPT FOR THE POOR

Republicans show their true colors. Losing some parks and zoos is not so bad; even the well-paid civilian defense workers will suffer through all right. But the WIC program? If even one infant goes one day without milk you will show the world your true contempt for the poor.

Vince Loving
Eugene

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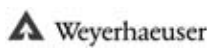
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