

of confinement animal husbandry to Asia has coincided with the depletion of grain reserves, rising food prices and resurgence of hunger” (Animal People’s “Watchdog Report,” 2012). Adding farm animals to certain regions contributes to problems of drought and desertification.

Yes, let us stress to children the joy of giving, but let us investigate the organizations we wish to support, including executive compensation and allocation of funds. Heifer International has a budget of more than \$125 million and pays its executives hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I suggest the local FOOD for Lane County or World Hunger Relief. Better to donate to those who teach people sustainable agricultural practices so they can feed themselves without causing negative results.

Deanna Kuhn
Eugene

THE \$818 CAT BITE

I somehow got to be 57 years old and never learned the difference between an ER and urgent care. So recently, with an infected cat bite, I naively walked into the ER at the old Sacred Heart Hospital at 13th & Hilyard.

After checking in with the receptionist (who made no effort to direct me to urgent care one block away), a nurse practitioner looked at my hand and wrote me a prescription for antibiotics, which fixed the problem. No X-rays were taken, no blood drawn, no tests performed. The examination lasted five or 10 minutes.

Some time later I was shocked to receive a bill from PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center for \$624 and a bill from Eugene Emergency Physicians for \$194. The total for my brush with the U.S. health care industry was \$818.

Perhaps implicit in this amount is that I’m being made to subsidize the large numbers of low-income people whose only recourse in many health matters is to go to an ER where they receive treatment, but it’s understood that they’ll never be able to pay. If this is

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2014 IN REVIEW
A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE AND ASSUREDLY INCOMPLETE LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS
PART THE SECOND

AUG. 10: FERGUSON POLICE TREAT PROTESTERS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. MAKE MY DAY, PUNKS.
IN SOME ALTERNATE UNIVERSE MAYBE.

MONTH OF OCTOBER: “GAMERGATERS” EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN FOR ETHICS IN GAMING JOURNALISM BY SENDING RAPE AND DEATH THREATS TO WOMEN.
IT’S THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE OF OUR ERA!

DEC. 9: DARK LORD CHENEY BLASTS TORTURE REPORT. WE SUBJECTED DETAINEES TO UNSPEAKABLE BRUTALITY AND SEXUAL ABUSE--
--IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR CORE AMERICAN VALUES!

JULY 19: ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTIVISTS START CAMPAIGN TO MAIL DIRTY UNDERWEAR TO CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEE CHILDREN IN U.S. DETAINMENT. BECAUSE WE ARE TERRIBLE HUMAN BEINGS! SIMPLY AWFUL!

AUG. 21: DARK LORD CHENEY WARNS--
“WHEN YOU SEE (ISIS) BEHEAD AN AMERICAN REPORTER...MAGNIFY THAT A MILLION TIMES OVER!”
FOX VIEWERS TREMBLE IN FEAR.

OCT. 22: HOMELAND SECURITY IS ON THE CASE-- CONFISCATING BOOTLEG K.C. ROYALS PANTIES FROM SMALL SHOPKEEPER. COPYRIGHT VIOLATION, MA’AM.
VERY IMPORTANT NATIONAL SECURITY BUSINESS.

DEC. 17: CUBA OPENS NORMALIZATION TALKS WITH COUNTRY NOTORIOUS FOR TORTURE AND SURVEILLANCE.
WE HOPE WE CAN BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE.

JULY 29: URBAN INSTITUTE REPORTS ONE IN THREE AMERICANS ARE BEING CHASED BY DEBT COLLECTORS.
THIS IS A TOTALLY SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM!

SEPT. 15: LINDSAY “PEARL-CLUTCHING” GRAHAM IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT ISIS. “THIS PRESIDENT NEEDS TO RISE TO THE OCCASION--”
“--BEFORE WE ALL GET KILLED BACK HERE AT HOME!”

NOV. 4: LOWEST VOTER TURNOUT IN 75 YEARS. ISN’T VOTER APATHY DREADFUL TO BEHOLD?
TRULY A DISGRACE.

DEC. 20: MENTALLY ILL MAN KILLS TWO COPS; RUDY GIULIANI BLAMES OBAMA. GUNS DON’T KILL PEOPLE--
--PRESIDENTS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LEGACY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION KILL PEOPLE.

JULY 17: R.I.P. ERIC GARNER, CHOKED TO DEATH BY NYC POLICE.
AUG. 5: R.I.P. JOHN CRAWFORD, SHOT BY OHIO POLICE WHILE CARRYING TOY GUN IN WALMART.
AUG. 9: R.I.P. MICHAEL BROWN, SHOT DEAD BY OFFICER DARREN WILSON.
R.I.P. TAMIR RICE AND SO MANY OTHERS.

SEPT. 30: FIRST U.S. EBOLA CASE SETS OFF EPIDEMIC OF MEDIA PANIC. THIS JUST IN--EVERYONE’S GOING TO DIE!
JUST NOT NECESSARILY NOW. OR FROM EBOLA.

NOV. 21: REPORT FROM GOP-CONTROLLED COMMITTEE FINDS “NO WRONGDOING” IN BENGHAZI; GOP LEADERSHIP DOUBLES DOWN ON FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS.
MAYBE WE’LL GET THE ANSWER WE WANT THE EIGHTH TIME WE TRY!

REST OF ‘14: WAY TOO MUCH MORE OF THE SAME. HAPPY WAR ON CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!
ALSO NEW YEAR’S!
NEXT YEAR: EVEN MORE!

the case, then the ER should bill the federal government, for they are the ones lacking the good sense to do what *all other* civilized countries have done: create a government-run, single-payer national health care system.

Canada, Japan and all the European counties pay 40 to 50 percent less for their health care than we do in the U.S., and everyone is covered. One role of government management of health care would be the elimination of ridiculous pricing like that found at the ironically named PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Robert Bolman
Eugene

EXPECT LITTLE FROM DEMS

I have to agree with LCC political science instructor Steve Candee when he says: “I expect a lot of moderation actually. Democrats haven’t shown a lot of guts when they’ve had the upper hand before. I don’t see them going out on a limb and

making a lot of bold moves” [R-G, Dec. 28]. Don’t expect boldness, and frankly, don’t expect much.

Modern Republicans have become so incredibly horrible that Democrats don’t have to be particularly good to be better. We still have chronically under-funded schools, underpaid teachers, crowded classrooms, short school years etc., but the Democrats show nothing remotely resembling the fierce urgency of now that ordinary Oregonians are looking for.

I’ve emailed the governor, Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Rep. Paul Holvey and Rep. Val Hoyle on numerous occasions, asking simple questions like these: Do you support making Oregon’s minimum wage an actual living wage and if so, will you work to make that happen? Will you work to give localities the power to control their own minimum wage? Do you have a plan to fund a first-class education in Oregon?

Other than an aid of Prozanski telling

me that Floyd is in favor of raising the minimum wage, I’ve received no responses whatsoever. Maybe if I was a Nike executive looking for a tax break instead of an ordinary citizen asking for some basic answers to important questions, I could actually get some responses.

This is part of why I switched to the Working Families Party. While the Oregon Democratic Party is undoubtedly much better than the Oregon Republican Party, the ODP remains rather pathetic.

Joshua Welch
Eugene

TAXING THE POOR

Another proposed flat fee! One would think we lived in Alabama, to have the poor paying the flat taxes and then have the rich given tax breaks so the poor pay for all government services. The proposed registration flat fee for vehicles is another downer for the poor, and how many just won’t be able to pay? A third of our county is in poverty and, for some, their car is their home as well as their work.

Anyone for a fairer, progressive tax on vehicles? Maybe we could also lower vehicle weight to equal what is allowed in California and forget about studded tires to tear up the roads so our roads might not break down so fast.

Please, no more flat taxes suggested!
Ruth Duemler
Eugene

WATERBOARD THE DICK

I would like to suggest that Dick Cheney spend a few days or weeks under enhanced interrogation to see if he would like to revise his definition of torture. If, perchance, he agreed to answer questions, he might be able to shed light on the events of 9/11 that he used so well to initiate illegal invasions and imprison and mistreat hundreds of “suspects.” I am of the opinion that the CIA contractors were interrogating the wrong suspects.

Patricia Spicer
Eugene

Mayor Kitty Piercy
cordially invites you to the

2015 State of the City Address

and
Administration of Oaths of Office

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
5:30 p.m.

Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Lobby

This is a free event and open to the public.

In response to the ongoing need for food assistance in our community, donations of canned goods for FOOD for Lane County will be accepted at the door.



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