

THIS MODERN WORLD

THEN AND NOW

by TOM TOMORROW

<p>THEN: AN ISOLATED, PARANOID PRESIDENT.</p> <p>"NEVER FORGET...THE PRESS IS THE ENEMY. THE ESTABLISHMENT IS THE ENEMY. THE PROFESSORS ARE THE ENEMY!"</p>	<p>NOW: SAME, BUT DUMBER, AND WITH TWITTER.</p> <p>"The FAKE NEWS media is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People! SICK!"</p>
<p>THEN: PRESIDENT FIRES MAN WHOSE INVESTIGATION COULD IMPLICATE HIM.</p> <p><i>The New York Times</i> NIXON DISCHARGES COX FOR DEFIANCE; ABOLISHES WATERGATE TASK FORCE; RICHARDSON AND RUCKELSHAUS OUT; Kissinger Meets Brezhnev on Midway Cruise-Five Ph...</p>	<p>NOW: PRESIDENT FIRES MAN WHOSE INVESTIGATION COULD IMPLICATE HIM, IF HE WEREN'T SO BUSY IMPLICATING HIMSELF.</p> <p>DIRECTOR COMEY WAS FIRED ON THE ADVICE OF ROD ROSENSTEIN--</p> <p>NAH--I DID IT BECAUSE OF RUSSIA!</p>
<p>THEN: SECRET RECORDING SYSTEM REVEALED DURING WATERGATE HEARINGS.</p> <p>"MR. BUTTERFIELD, ARE YOU AWARE OF THE INSTALLATION OF ANY LISTENING DEVICES IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT?"</p> <p>U.L.P.</p>	<p>NOW: IT'S ONLY BEEN FOUR MONTHS, WHEN THE PRESIDENT IMPULSIVELY BLURTS IT OUT, IT'S NO LONGER CLASSIFIED! RIGHT, JARED?</p> <p>UM--I THINK?</p>
<p>NOW: SECRET RECORDING SYSTEM IMPLIED IN THREATENING TWEET FROM PRESIDENT.</p> <p>"James Comey better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!"</p> <p>THAT SHOULD SHUT HIM UP!</p>	<p>THEN: PRESIDENCY UNRAVELS AFTER FIVE AND A HALF YEARS IN OFFICE.</p> <p>"WHEN THE PRESIDENT DOES IT, THAT MEANS IT IS NOT ILLEGAL!"</p>

Our family was surprised that, despite the steep cost of care for our elderly mom in several Oregon facilities over the years, we still had to work hands-on to get her basic needs met.

State law is to blame, with regulations that protect those profiting from the failing health of people more than the people themselves. Does anyone really believe two caregivers can manage 40 residents on meds and in diapers? Oregon does!

And many states mandate that nurses administer meds. In Oregon, an 18-year-old worker with no medical background can give drugs in assisted living facilities — including insulin and barbiturates.

The Long-Term Care Bill of Rights assures residents are safe to complain without fear of retaliation, but one learns it is wiser to keep quiet. Your only recourse is the ombudsman, who in reality is more a mediator than an advocate.

As for substantiated complaints: We know of injury-by-neglect cases that should have been substantiated but were not. One case was closed before all the parties were even interviewed. Does DHS give facilities a pass because investigators themselves are overworked or undertrained?

We all face the possibility of life in a long-term care facility — one accident can put you there. So please question your legislators, particularly about Oregon's caregiver-to-resident ratios.

It is tragic that many of the hardy old folks who survived the Depression and WWII may die of neglect in Oregon's long-term care facilities.

*Cheryl P. Morris
Eugene*

EMPTY NESTS

The *Eugene Weekly's* recent Outdoors Issue described Oregon as a "birding paradise." It's a claim that's hard to argue with.

From Fern Ridge here in Eugene to Yaquina Head on the coast to any of the state's many National Wildlife refuges, there is a feeling of abundance. Even a short walk through these spaces brings an irrepressible smile to my face. An encounter with an interesting bird can feel like a gift that one has received.

But we should not be so myopic as to forget that such spaces are mere remnants of what has been and continues to be destroyed. Habitat continues to be systematically eliminated and life itself is being extinguished.

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