

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE RESPONSES WE GET: A BRIEF GUIDE



Well, I did get room service...
Once you walk through their doors you become their captive. They can charge anything they want, pretty much.

PeaceHealth would immediately go out of business if they were operating in the real world, where customers have choices.

Hospitals, in cahoots with the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry, enrich one other at the expense of the patient. There's little wonder that health care in the U.S. is the most expensive in the world. In that breakdown of costs was the evidence.

Why does everyone turn a blind eye to all this? It's a national scandal.

Peter Holden
Eugene

WHY WAIT?

I spent a week in the San Francisco Bay Area as the Camp Fire was destroying Paradise, leaving many dead. The smoke blanketing the Bay Area was caustic. Schools closed, and our lungs and throats burned as we wore masks and tried to stay inside.

I was delighted to return to Eugene. Then I felt that familiar burning again — and found the Air Quality Index at 84! Home-heating wood smoke creates fine particles

that are very detrimental for everyone — not just children, the sensitive and the elderly. These people are our neighbors.

Ironically, most of us never even feel an impact — it is almost an invisible threat. A simple internet search can show you how harmful breathing smoke is. In a time when there is not a lot of positive leadership from “above,” we have to remember that life is much more lateral than it is top-down.

As citizens and community members, we can take direct steps to improve our air shed and world. Cleaner woodstove technology exists here and now. Research “rocket stove” online. Smoke is simply unburned fuel, just like low-grade diesel “smoke” — it is very harmful.

Why wait for someone to ban it? We live in a big air shed together — regardless of who gets elected. Before we light that next heating fire, we should ask: “What can we do to stay warm and improve the air quality for our community?”

Mark Heitchue
Eugene

NOT SO GREEN

Someone recently wrote a letter to *Eugene Weekly* about the smell that has a “hint of the sea” being detectable in the Barger



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