The Hortland Observer

May 25, 2005

OPINION **Robber Barons** on Steroids CEO salaries up 54 percent,

BY HOLLY SKLAR

pay raise? That's how much pay jumped last year for the chief executive officers of the 500 largest U.S. companies, reports "Forbes" magazine.

economy is stalling, the trade defiis below 1999 levels, but CEO pay is options, and he'll make more annustill in steroids.

The highest paid CEO in 2004 was Yahoo's Terry Semel, who than \$4 million a week.

Tonight" list of companies "sending American jobs overseas, or choosing to employ cheap over- just \$32,594. That's 11 percent less seas labor, instead of American than 1973's average worker pay, workers."

average American workers to match cent between 1973 and 2004. the pay of Yahoo's CEO.

McGuire William UnitedHealth Group, the nation's leading insurer, was the third-highest paid CEO on the "Forbes" list. much as workers. His pay of \$124.8 million could cover the average health insurance pre- tougher time making ends meet, miums of nearly 34,000 people.

CEOs win big even when the company loses. Merck, for example, chauffeured cars, company apart-

while worker pay shrinks had to pull its Vioxx pain medication How would you like a 54 percent off the market because it increases stroke and heart attack risk, and Merck stock was down 28 percent last year, but then-CEO Ray Gilmartin got a supposedly performance-based bonus. His total 2004 Worker pay is shrinking, the compensation was \$37.8 million, he received new grants of 90,000 cit is growing and the stock market shares of stock and 250,000 stock ally in retirement than average workers earn in their lifetimes.

CEO pay averaged \$10.2 million hauled in \$230.6 million. That's more in 2004, counting salary, bonus and other compensation such as exer-Yahoo is on the "Lou Dobbs cised stock options and vested stock grants.

Full-time worker pay averaged adjusting for inflation, although It would take the pay of 7,075 worker productivity rose 78 per-

In 1973, CEOs made 45 times as of much as workers. In 1991, they made 140 times as much and last year, CEOs made more than 300 times as

> While workers are having a CEO freeloaders expect perks such as lifetime use of company jets,

It would take the pay of 7,075 average American workers to match the pay of Yahoo's CEO.

ments, club memberships, sports tickets, financial planning, personal assistants and more.

While worker pensions are increasingly unavailable or unreliable, CEO retirement gives new meaning

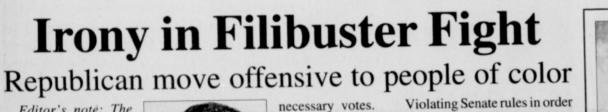
to "the golden years."

CEO robber barons are increasingly stashing their loot in guaranteed pensions, deferred compensation, guaranteed consulting fees - no actual consulting necessary - and other postretirement perks and compensation to avoid shareholder scrutiny and sidestep the new rule for companies to treat stock options as expenses.

Making matters worse, CEOs earning more than their fair share are being rewarded with huge tax cuts.

Workers and their families are paying the biggest price as CEOs milk their companies and our country like cash cows.

Holly Sklar is a co-author of "Raise the Floor: Wages and Policies That Work for All Of Us."



extensions of the

Voting Rights Act

and of Title VII of

the 1964 Civil

Southern Demo-

crats almost al-

ways led the racial

filibusters, but

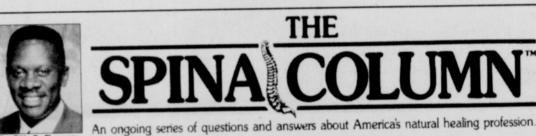
Act.

Rights

Editor's note: The following letter from the Congressional Black Caucus to Sen-



Violating Senate rules in order Racial filibusters to overturn Rule XXII is especontinued in the cially unacceptable to us today in 1970s, even for light of the repeated and dispro-



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ate Majority Leader William Frist, R-Tenn., expresses the CBC's opposition to the elimination of the filibuster and the nomination of Melvin L. Watt, chair, judges with extremist Congressional Black views on civil and human rights.

first time toward possible elimi- conservative Republicans. We nation of the filibuster, the 43 recite this history to emphasize members of the Congressional that minority rights in the Senate cern at the time that a large por-Black Caucus believe that we are no less important today than have a special obligation to ex- they were when the Senate inpress our unanimous view that Rule XXII providing for extended ity that delayed each and every debate on all Senate matters must be maintained.

The Senate insisted that the minority rights of Senators were cally used when Senate minority absolute when the filibuster was used for a 100 years almost exclusively to defeat the human rights of African Americans. During all those years, Rule XXII was so impenetrable that despite a Senate minority that seeks to the documented lynchings of protect the rights of African 6,000 African Americans and the Americans. Today, when a miopen and notorious denial of the nority of Senators seeks to pro- to protect workers, women, perright of African Americans to tect African Americans from sons with disabilities and the envote, proponents of their rights finally ceased trying to enact even rights and laws critical to their the most essential bills - antilynching legislation after three proposal to use an unprecedented attempts in the 1920s and 1930s and anti-poll tax legislation after the first time would be particuthree attempts in the 1940s.

All of the major legislation that today bars racial discrimination in voting, employment and housing was passed after filibusters, requiring cloture to obtain the



Caucus

As the Senate moves for the they were always joined by some sisted on the rights of the minorattempt to enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments for a century.

> The filibuster was systematirights of African Americans. We when Senate minority rights are proposed to be over-ruled against judges who have opposed their vironment. procedure to jettison the Rule for larly offensive to people of color. We believe that the unbroken Senate minority must be respected regardless of the identity of the minority or of its issues.

portionate use of filibusters against the nominations of Black, Hispanics and women nominees in the Judiciary Committee during the prior administration. Despite President Clinton's collaboration with Sen. Orrin Hatch and the resulting confirmation of some judges, 60 Clinton nominees were denied hearings or votes in the Judiciary Committee. We expressed our deep contion of those who did not emerge from the Committee were nominees of color and women. We have looked closely at the

records and expressed views of the disputed nominees. We oppose their confirmation to the federal judiciary because their rights meant the denial of the documented views on civil and constitutional rights are so excannot and will not stand down treme that they have been discredited and rejected by most Americans and because of their demonstrated hostility to the discipline of judicial precedent and to the laws Congress has passed

You and other senators are advancement toward equality, the entitled to differ with us on particular nominees. The members of the Congressional Black Caucus believe that we are entitled to request that you respect the Senate rules that have tradition of fair treatment for the never favored the Senate majority, even in the face of the tragic consequences that we know all too well.

Letter to the

Fairless Square

A recent recommendation to the Tri-Met Board of Directors recommended establishing a fare system in the Fareless Square system to stop terrorists.

But in reference to the Spanish train bombing, those terrorists paid to get on to the train they destroyed, so the argument doesn't hold any validity or any logical premise. We Pacific Green Party memimpose a fare in the Fareless Square and prefer the current Fareless System to be

preserved as is.

In addition, we also support a system that is Fareless for seniors, disabled and youth. We believe that expanding the mass transit system in services is vital in reducing traffic congestion, lowering air pollution and inbers believe it would be silly to creasing business and job productivity.

> Dale C. Chambers Northeast Portland

Part 8. CONSTIPATION: The backing up of body's sewage system.

helped my constipation. What can Chiropractic possibly do?

: As a natural form of healing, A there is much a Chiropractic and the improved lifestyle we recommend can do to remove the immediate distress and long term health hazards of constipation. But before we begin, you should understand that constipation takes two approaches. The first is the tight, sometimes painful feeling in the lower back area. The second and more insidious type is what we call "hidden constipation." This is when we seemingly move our bowels regularly, but

Nothing has ever really never completely eliminate everything in our colon (large intestine). This causes the colon to back up and spread toxic poisons throughout the body. This can lead to everything from sinusitis to allergies to arthritis.

> Chiropractic can help to alleviate this problem by gently turning nerves back on in the colon and small intestine. It is not uncommon for a patient to have two, three or

even four bowel movements after the first adjustments on his or her spine. A man with FBSS (failed back surgical syndrome) went home and had 12 bowel movements that night. And he claimed he wasn't even constipated! Whatever questions you might have about health and healing, you'll find that Chiropractic is often the answer. Call us for an appointment today.

Flowers' Chiropractic Office 2124 N.E. Hancock Street Portland, Oregon 97212 Phone: (503) 287-5504

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