

Letters

Northwest power rates are Bush budget target

To the Editor:

Bush and the Neocons' assault on the American Middle Class seems to be continuing. They are not satisfied with just spinning the facts on Social Security; evidently they are now going after our Northwest's Bonneville Power Administration. According to a PBS report (Feb.7), the Administration will be proposing to raise Bonneville's electric rates by a good 20%. Justification for this raise has nothing to do with increasing power costs. A spokesman for the Administration stated that they would like to equalize NW power costs

with the rest of the county to make things "more fair."

Fair for who?

Just another hidden tax on the rest of us to try and make up for his spending blunders, and another step in the direction of privatizing a successful New Deal program.

**Bill Eagle
St. Helens**

Relief funds going to help tsunami victims

To the Community of Vernonia:

We are pleased to announce through the efforts of Sandra Rogers and our customers of Vernonia Sentry we were able to raise over \$500.00 for the Tsunami Relief Funds. The do-

nations were divided equally between the Mercy Corps and NW Medical Teams. Once again, Vernonia proved though this outpouring of offerings that we should be proud to live in a town that values not only our own, but those in less fortunate situations. We applaud the efforts of these organizations to make this world a better place for the unfortunate victims of disasters.

Sincerely,
**The Staff of
Vernonia Sentry and
Randy Parrow,
Manager/Owner**

President returns to his old scare tactics

Letter to George W. Bush:

I watched the State of the Union address the other night, and was not at all surprised by the scare tactics, propaganda, and misleading "facts" you voiced, (between your smirks and winks to people in the gallery), to officially announce your proposal to "overhaul" Social Security.

Thinking back on recent history and how you, and your administration, "chicken littled" to anyone who would listen, that we had to rid the world of Saddam due to all of those WMD's he possessed and his ties to Al Quaida. Funny how, when it was found that there were no weapons, and no connection to Al Quaida, you placed the blame on our intelligence agencies. Boy, you sure were tricky not admitting any fault or offering any apologies, (With the exception of a few lower ranking officials, and I bet we don't hear their names mentioned in the beltway much longer). Man, I was impressed by your versatility. Even though your administration had lobbied the misinformation in any venue available. And in any calculated degree of fear mongering you could conceive, when the truth came out you just changed the message to "we are bringing freedom to an oppressed people," and a little more than half of Americans bought it.

Now there is one heckuva mandate if I have ever seen one. By the way does this mean we will be invading China anytime soon? oh but I digress...

Well what's past is past and life goes on (except for the 1400+ and counting brave soldiers and 100,000+ innocent Iraqis who died for a lie). The vote tallies in Iraq are coming in, but while you are patting yourself on the back and spreading democracy around the world, have you noticed that the party in Iraq that looks to be the winner, is closely aligned with the leaders of neighboring Iran. Well you must, because already there are veiled threats coming from your administration towards Iran. Such as the recent one from your new Secretary of State, Dr. Rice, who says that invading Iran is not on the administration's "present" agenda. Reading between the lines I

wonder how fast that "company line" will change and your administration goes on the warpath again. I imagine it will be when the newly elected pro Iranian leaders of Iraq, (put in power by the will of their newly liberated constituency), tells you they don't want you to play in their blood and oil soaked sandbox any longer.

And what is going on in Afghanistan? Didn't we invade Afghanistan to destroy the terrorist training camps of Al Quaida and rid them of the Taliban? It isn't in the headlines anymore because of the more "newsworthy" events you helped create in Iraq. But in case you didn't know, since you "liberated" that country and turned it into a democracy, Afghanistan has again become the world leader in opium production. Warlords run the majority of the country, (as they did before the invasion), and their newly elected leader has to be protected 24 hours a day by U.S. security forces. Funny, but I do not see the term "puppet regime" listed under democracy in the dictionary.

I bet you are hoping that Americans don't look at a world map and note that Iran lies between Iraq and Afghanistan. And hopefully they don't think back over time, especially from the days of the Shah of Iran, the Iran-Contra affair, etc. It might strike them that the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq were quite possibly just a precursor to the present stage that has been set. And now that the U.S. basically surrounds Iran, how that country would have a serious problem trying to defend two borders if you were to unleash a new pre-emptive war, of course you already know if you categorized it "in the interest of national security" all would be okay.

Now I see you have a plan for overhauling Social Security. I bet this will be your coup de grace, as it will have a direct effect on every American's pocket book for many generations to come.

Although I find your "convenient" accounting methods to promote this plan, along with your newly proposed budget that you claim will cut our national debt in half, are quite contradictory and somewhat

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Don't you just love the titles of children's books? *Franny, B. Kranny, There's a Bird in Your Hair, Who's Afraid of the big Bad Book?*, and *I Wanna Iguana* are just some of the library's newest acquisitions. Thanks to The Friends of the Library, ad-

ditional Beginning Reading and Ready-for Chapter books have been added to the collection, as well as more "We both Read" books. The latter of these books are especially nice as an adult reads a page and the youngster reads the next page which consists of just a few words from the previous page—but completes the idea, making it the punch line.

At the next meeting, April 5th, The Friends of the Library will be electing new officers. Present officers (Jennifer Butcher, Joann Glass, El Donna Williams, Claudine East and Linda Johnston) have done a commendable job of getting the organization legally started and being the driving forces in any and all of the projects that have been undertaken. These ladies have...and continue...to work very hard, but would greatly welcome help in all aspects of the organization, including leadership, fund-raising and publicity. Membership in The Friends of the Library is open to all individuals in sympathy with its purpose, which is to promote and better the library. The only other requirement for becoming a member and being eligible for office are that dues (\$5.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family) must be paid for the current year. Dues may be paid at any time in the library.

New acquisitions for adults include *Chainfire* by Terry Goodkind, *The Same Sweet Girls* by Cassandra King, *Dark Eye* by William Benhardt, and *Conviction* by Richard North Patterson. I'm especially anxious to read *Outside Valentine* by Liza Ward, *The Tarnished Eye* by Judith Guest,

and *The Memory of Running* by Ron McLarty. Both *Outside Valentine* and *The Tarnished Eye* are novels based on real crimes and criminals. In *Outside Valentine*, The 1950's "Starkweather Murders" in Lincoln, Nebraska, are relived from the perspective of three narrators—Caril Ann Fugate, Charles Starkweather's teenage girlfriend and accomplice in the killings; Susan, a teenager obsessed with the lives of the murderers; and Lowell, who was orphaned as a boy when his parents were murdered by the duo. Of special interest, Lisa Ward, the author of *Outside Valentine*, is the granddaughter of two of the victims of Starkweather's killing rampage. *The Tarnished Eye* draws its plot from the unsolved 1968 murders of the Robison family—Richard, his wife, Shirley, and their three sons and daughter—at their summer cottage in Michigan.

In *The Memory of Running* the reader is introduced to Smithson "Smitty" Ide, an overweight, friendless, chain-smoking forty-three-year-old drunk. By all accounts, he's a loser. Then, within the span of one week, his parents are killed in a car crash and he discovers his long-lost sister has died. Unmoored by the loss of his entire family, Smitty rides down the driveway from his parents' house on his old Raleigh bicycle into a journey that will take him across the United States.

Don't forget the Monday morning Pre-school Story times at 10:30, the Monday afternoon Reading Enrichment programs at 3:30 and the Bedtime Story time at 7:00 p.m. with its next date of Tuesday, March 22nd. Watch for flyers telling about a special musical presentation by Mark and Helena Greathouse, that will be held on Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. This event will be sponsored by The Vernonia Study Club.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.
Phone: (503) 429-1818