

Cure for acid rain takes mutual effort

The United States and Canada share a common border; they also share a common problem — acid rain. There has been much talk and little action in regard to acid rain, and much of the talk has been coming from the United States while most of the action has been coming from Canada.

The tragic irony of this story is that most of Canada's acid rain originates in the United States. Unwillingly, Canada imports roughly 50 percent of its acid rain from the United States. In Canada's worst-hit areas, the average runs near 75 percent.

Most of the exported acid rain is a product of the smoke-stack industries along the Ohio Valley, where approximately 3.2 tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide waft across the border.

The Canadians have initiated an ambitious program to combat the problem, pledging to reduce their own toxic emissions by 50 percent in the next 10 years. Similarly, they have asked the United States to follow their lead and join in a pact that would place mandatory cuts on toxic emissions — emissions that eventually flow across the border.

It is estimated that acid rain, if left unchecked, will eliminate \$20 billion in annual economic activity in Canada, and would spell biological death for many of that country's streams, rivers, lakes and forests.

But the Reagan administration has been dragging its feet with this issue and has snubbed the Canadian acid rain pact.

The President has refused to enter this pact, claiming that it would throw the U.S. smoke-stack industries into economic peril. Instead, Reagan has backed a five-year, \$5 billion plan to research more efficient ways of burning coal.

This is fine and well; however, it does nothing in the interim. The Reagan administration would be doing itself, the nation and Canada a great favor by joining this pact. The longer the administration drags its feet, the more acid rain will continue to erode and destroy precious natural resources on both sides of the border.

Wine-cooler bottle bill would help alleviate clutter

Last month, the Oregon Senate passed a bill that would require a 5-cent deposit on all wine coolers sold in the state. This was a good move by the Senate and one that should help reduce roadside litter.

The bill easily passed the Senate, and with good reason. Sen Jane Cease, D-Portland, sponsor of Senate Bill 508, produced evidence that wine coolers represent less than 1 percent of the beer and soft-drinks sold.

However, a survey of highway litter found that empty wine cooler containers account for a disproportionate share of roadside rubbish — up to eight times their market share.

Opposition of the bill came from distributors, who claimed that required deposits would cost them undue expenditures.

As it turned out, distributors won an amendment that would permit them territorial rights to distribute their coolers in certain areas.

The wine-cooler bill will move to the House where it is expected to pass with ease. The bill, if it becomes law, would conform to existing state statutes governing other bottled beverages and would help clean the state's highways.



Letters

Illogical

Recent letters to the Emerald have proven without a doubt that women are better than men, and lesbians are best overall.

John English and others have stated and implied in their letters that because homosexuals are more likely to get AIDS, they are more "guilty" than the rest of the population.

If we follow this line of reasoning, it is easy to see that lesbians, to whom AIDS is virtually unknown, are morally and biologically superior. The same applies to women in general, who as AIDS victims are outnumbered by men 15 to 1.

If incidence of AIDS within population is indicative of guilt, then women are superior to men. Obviously this is an illogical argument, yet it is one to which many homophobics adhere passionately.

While it is true that promiscuity is a factor in disseminating AIDS, it is time to face the fact that AIDS is in no way a punishment for immoral behavior.

Conceding the homophobic view of homosexuality, it is still

incorrect to assume that AIDS is in any way linked with being gay. That most American AIDS victims are gay men is, perhaps, no more than coincidence when one considers that in Africa, where the AIDS epidemic is a far greater threat than in the United States, AIDS is overwhelmingly a heterosexual disease.

People feel compelled to judge good and evil; the AIDS virus is unaware of whether it is striking the most "innocent" newborn infant or the most "guilty" promiscuous homosexual man.

Only when John English, Floyd Beam, Dan Goulet, and others like them grow up and realize that AIDS is not a biological Atilla the Hun descending to scourge the guilty, will we be able to face this disease in a mature and rational manner.

Kristen McBride
Kathy Laursen
Eugene

Checking up

In case you missed "Toll-Free Spy" (ODE, April 29), that letter called on the carpet our new free spy number, 1-800-CALL-SPY. This is in continuation.

The housekeeper who turned in the new neighbors' gardener subsequently passed muster with an Avon Lady agent and received an inconsequential form letter thanking her for her

concern and assuring her of the gardener's intentions.

The gardener who had previously worked for "Rockwell" upon further investigation turned out to have worked for the funk rock group, not the arms manufacturer.

The closing of this case was then considered, whereupon a last-minute background check of the housekeeper's employer, the ex-ambassador to Brazil, revealed neither scandal nor apprehension...although there was one curious parking violation:

It seems he'd violated one of Rio's numerous human parking meters. Reparations to the victim amounted to 50,000 centavos, or roughly, two hamburgers.

Unscathed, the ambassador served another 12 years without incident before retiring to his south hills home with a clear conscience and a buttinsky housekeeper.

The gardener, however, didn't get off so lucky. Because of attempting to guard the wrong flowers against snails, he was let go.

"But it's the nutrients," he insisted. "It's for the nutrients." And this he said with a stern look, like it was a belief, or at least something he'd been read.

Tim Jaques
Undeclared

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