

Why do men act violently? The article said the perpetrator became “distraught when his two friends fell in love.” Lots of folks become distraught without using it as justification for killing somebody — because they don’t have belief systems that allow such choices. So how would a person develop beliefs that justify murder?

When I look around, I see a barrage of messages supporting the beliefs that real men get what they want through force, that women should be subservient to men, that women should be available to men — sexually and otherwise, and that women are the property of men. (In this case, she was “stolen property.”)

These beliefs are unfortunately the norm. I see an entire culture rooted in power and control — from military, civil, medical, and economic structures, to child abuse, sexual abuse, rape and domestic violence. I see men in control, and using violent force and coercion to maintain control and get what they want. Why did the victim’s neighbor not suspect that this could ever happen? Let’s consider for a moment that in this “terrible situation,” nothing was actually out of the ordinary. Now what are we doing to make this a community where male violence is actually shocking and extraordinary?

Lucas Spiegel
Eugene

REPRODUCING EVIDENCE

I read your well reasoned “Fire Season” story in the (8/28) *EW* and I am prompted

to respond to a couple of points you excellently made. You said we humans managing the Earth are ruining it over timespans that individual humans cannot comprehend in their brief lifespans. But if David Suzuki is correct — and I have no intellectual reason to doubt that he is — then the premise you apply to the human herd ruining the forests of the Earth applies equally to all other aspects of the biosphere.

If you read *Ruralite Magazine*, *Country Life Magazine* or the *Utah Cattlemen’s Association Magazine*, you will realize that the driving force of the defloration of Earth is the escalating birth rate of humanity and each succeeding generation’s biological drive to disperse into more reliable brooding areas to feed their offspring. If you are 17 to 35 years of age you will immediately understand that each generation of humans are innately sexually driven to find mates and to copulate until they have issued sufficient self replacements and to sustain those offspring into reproductive age, to assure the generation’s breeding legacy.

So as Walt Kelly, the comic strip creator of “Pogo” said in the offering that got him banned from syndication, “I have found the environmental enemy ... It is me.”

And whereas I, you and most of the generation of “E” freaks want resolution of our humanity insults to the environment within our lifetimes, or as Carla Borton said, “At least before lunchtime tomorrow,” the truth of the global impact of humanity on the biosphere of Earth most

likely will be resolved over the coming 3,000 to 4,000 years and involve swerving in how the collective human species reproduces itself from generation to generation and also how we calculate viable lifespans.

Don Boarstad
Corvallis

BLAMING FARMERS?

Nothing raises my ire like JA Claybaugh’s “Smog Alert” (letter, 9/11). What kind of footing for complaint against the farmers does Claybaugh have? Claybaugh notices the smog while driving. Can Claybaugh not put one and one together and realize that her actions are causing smog? Does anyone in Eugene understand that the largest causative factor for childhood asthma is automobile exhaust?

Like Claybaugh, I’m sickened. I’m sickened that 20 or 30 million drivers and their burning engines can so dramatically foul the air for six billion greater Earth residents and create such a public health hazard. At least the farmers aren’t also killing 118 people a day (the average death toll in the U.S. alone by automobile accidents), destroying an ever increasing amount of animal habitat, encouraging a military policy of war for oil, or dividing communities. And the farmers produce something through their field burning.

On the other hand, your average driver is doing nothing that couldn’t be done with a walk, a bicycle ride or a short trip on public transportation.

Jeffrey Stout

Eugene

MOUNTAIN RASCAL

Several weeks ago while I was on vacation with my partner, we made a stop in Eugene while on our way to Portland. We grabbed a bite to eat and headed to a park for a picnic lunch, which we shared with our cats. Despite being on a harness and leash, one of our cats became frightened and escaped from us. We searched the mountain he ran to for hours, to no avail. People that we met at the park told us about the Greenhill Humane Society, and we went there to ask for suggestions. The staff members there were helpful and sympathetic.

After more than 30 hours of being missing on the mountain, our cat, Rascal, was recovered. We were pleasantly surprised at how friendly and helpful everyone we encountered was when we explained our predicament. Many thanks to the Greenhill Humane Society, Mark Henrikson, Jody, and the many others who assisted us. We felt encouraged and supported by the community. As a result, we are considering moving to Eugene! Eugene has our vote for friendliest city in the U.S.

Kristen Roosa
San Diego

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