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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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*Debby Todd
Florence*

DELUDED ARROGANCE

Few people noticed that only 31 percent of eligible voters approved of Bush, and a whopping 40 percent abstained, perhaps because both Democrats and Republicans support defiant, violent world domination. I hope the corporate-political aristocracy feels abandoned by the non-voters because the empire-expansion policies will hit the wall of petroleum exhaustion soon, resulting in deadly chaos.

At only 5 percent of the world's population, Americans dominate the rest of the world by consuming 20 percent of the disappearing oil, which requires enormous military support. In 1998, the Republican Policy Committee stated "most of the cost of Persian Gulf oil is the military cost."

Obese oil corporations are protected by an obese military so that obese Americans can drive their obese vehicles. The people who display the "Support Our Troops" ribbons are insulated from viewing the obscene violence committed by those troops and they obviously don't connect the gas-guzzling vehicles that bears their ribbons to the demand for oil bought with the blood of those troops.

We have a deluded arrogance: 137 species are going extinct every day from global warming, we produce 25 percent of the world's global-warming carbon emissions, yet we refuse to sign the Kyoto treaty. We also have enough nuclear bombs to destroy all life on the planet several times over. We could become extinct ourselves, easily. Realizing this, millions of people worldwide are working toward cooperation and peaceful coexistence. We do not need to wait for an obsolete domination system to grant us true security.

*David Hazen
Eugene*

EYES WIDE SHUT

To those "citizens" in Eugene who sit by tacitly and watch as women are abused, you are a disgrace. Apparently my gender still feels comfortable with assaulting women. I am angry and disillusioned with the actions of these bottom feeding abusers and the cowardly "non-confrontational" spectators peering in Buddha-like silence as assault takes place in the city streets.

This city sure has a high concentration of people willing to turn their tie-dyes when realistic problems are in full view. I hope the children in attendance with their parents didn't get any negative ideas as they looked upon this confusing mix of apathy and aggression.

The fact is, if you do not react, if you make no movements, no interjections, or if you refuse to stack yourself into a physical presence, more power is being commandeered by these simian self-hating tough-guys. You should already have a working, cognitive value system by now. Is something you are witnessing confusing to you?

I had no problem running to the aid of someone who was being assaulted in the street while an entire busload of people watched dumbly; and I certainly didn't stand about crippled by internal moral dilemmas when I reacted to an obvious, public case of abuse. Yet, my "nosy" behavior sent some abusive creep staggering home and away from his victim. That was my only concern at the moment, my only reaction. To the large crowd watching from a distance — YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING.

*Jon Young
Veneta*

WHAT'S SUCCESS?

I am homeless./ But not one can help me./ People say homeless people are poor,/ that they don't know about success,/ so they don't have a door or a roof,/ They say they drink and do drugs,/ And then it makes their life go poof./ But it's not true because I'm homeless, too./ Homeless people know about success/ Look what I do./ I go to school, I don't smoke/ Or do drugs./ I work on Saturdays/ I live without my mom,/ I take care of two kids,/ Try to survive on my own,/ So if that's not success/ Then what is?

This poem was written by Matthew Hernandez, a student at Churchill Alternative High School. This poem was a response to my own homelessness and to others that experience it. Because a lot of people aren't aware of this issue, this poem is a social commentary exposing my own emotions and the truth about "staying on the streets."

*Matthew Hernandez
Eugene*

FACING EXTINCTION

Forever is a long time. We are in an unprecedented crisis, one whose implications have failed to reach those responsible for it. The rate of species going extinct due to our collective activities has reached an unprecedented number, thousands of species per year.

But that's nothing compared to what eco-science experts predict. They say that if we do not act to slow, stop and reverse our fouling of air land and water, 30 percent of all species will be on an irreversible path to extinction by the year 2015, and potentially 90 percent will be in that category by 2100.

What we do or fail to do now, in these next 10 years, will determine the extent of our enormous sin. Man(un)kind has been responsible for many sins (by causing undeserved harm to vulnerable "others"), especially in the 20th century. Our influence has grown so massive that the very survival of the planetary web of life is in question. We have to find ways to signal through the flames, to cooperate in ways we have not yet done, for the outcome to be anything but tragic. Extinction is forever.

*Paul Prenskey
Springfield*

BY THE WAY ...

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