

third generation of addicted infants. This really is a nightmare.

If you don't believe me I challenge you to walk down Main Street in Springfield between 21st and Mill any time after dark (bring a dog, a camera and a cell phone and dress in black). Next morning go to a mini mart and see them buy their morning beer so they can sleep all day. They think nothing of stealing from parents, friends, strangers. And mostly they don't have the ability to parent after addiction sets in. The cost alone in human suffering is enough but the cost to unformed citizens is the tax dollars spent on trying to fight the epidemic

Dawn Curry
Springfield

KANSAS ON MY MIND

Some folks in Kansas are fighting against the theory of evolution. Perhaps they're right. Maybe there hasn't been any evolution in Kansas.

David Mandelblatt
Eugene

WALDEN'S FOLLY

Oregon Rep. Walden has introduced a bill into the House of Representatives, the "Forest Emergency and Recovery Act," that would allow aggressive old-growth logging on our public lands within 60 days of a natural disturbance (ie: fire, drought, floods, windstorms or insects), bypassing any public involvement.

Let's set the record straight: fires do not "destroy" forests, fires *rejuvenate* forests. Certain tree species, such as the knobcone pine, actually require fire to burst its seed cones. Forest fires provide wildlife habitat in the form of dead standing trees, or snags, while downed trees eventually decompose to create fresh fertile soil. The Forest Service's own scientists claim the best thing to do after a fire is to allow the forest to recover on its own.

New Mexico's Rep. Udall has introduced an alternative to Walden's bill, which many environmentalists are calling a "common sense approach" to forest management. The bill calls for a number of projects that would experiment with different approaches to managing the post-fire landscape. Compared to Walden's monstrosity, Udall's proposal seems almost reasonable (as would anything). But no matter how you look at it, Udall's bill still justifies the logging of old-growth on public lands! With 95 percent of our native forests already cut, why should environmentalists — whose responsibility it is to speak for our voiceless forests — be the ones doing the compromising?

Please call Sens. Wyden (431-0229) and Smith (465-6750) and tell them to fight Walden's "Forest Emergency and Recovery

Act," as well as any other proposal that advocates for post-fire salvage logging on our public lands.

Josh Schlossberg
Eugene

TRANS ACTIVISM

Bree McKenzie (11/17) asks, "what can we do?" (in response to my viewpoint 11/10). There's lots!

It's always helpful simply to fight for human rights. Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or *other status*."

There are, after all, people whose situations are considerably more at-risk than many transpeople (think Darfur. Think Iraq. Think Katrina. Think Pakistan earthquake zone). There is plenty of work to be done! Meanwhile, some documents that will help individuals or groups in learning how to help secure rights and safety for transpeople follow:

- Suggested Trans Activism Steps (<http://pflag-es.org/steps.html>). Campus-oriented but widely useful guide for allies and ally organizations.

- Trans Activism Guide (<http://pflag-es.org/guide.htm>). Campus-oriented, heavy on theory. For GLBT organizations.

- Discussion guide for the superb short documentary, *Toilet Training*, which organizations may borrow from the HRC (<http://pflag-es.org/ttrain.html>).

- See also the City of Eugene Human Rights Commission site. Their document URLs are too long to reproduce, so I'll simply note that you can reach their excellent materials from either of these two sites: Lane County Transgender Yellow Pages: (<http://epud.net/%7EBears/resources.html>) or PFLAG Eugene-Springfield's Transgender Information Page (<http://pflag-es.org/trans.html>).

Risa Stephanie Bear
Eugene

CHANGE WITHIN

When will we realize the non-renewable and limited nature of the fossil fuels we depend on so heavily? Will it be *before* or *after* our global society becomes ecologically literate enough to understand that we are part of the web of life?

On Nov. 3, our Senate passed the Budget Reconciliation Bill, which included a provision to open America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. I applaud Sen. Wyden's vote against the bill, and while Sen. Smith voted for an amendment to strip the drilling provision from the bill, he



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02.15 Philip Glass



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