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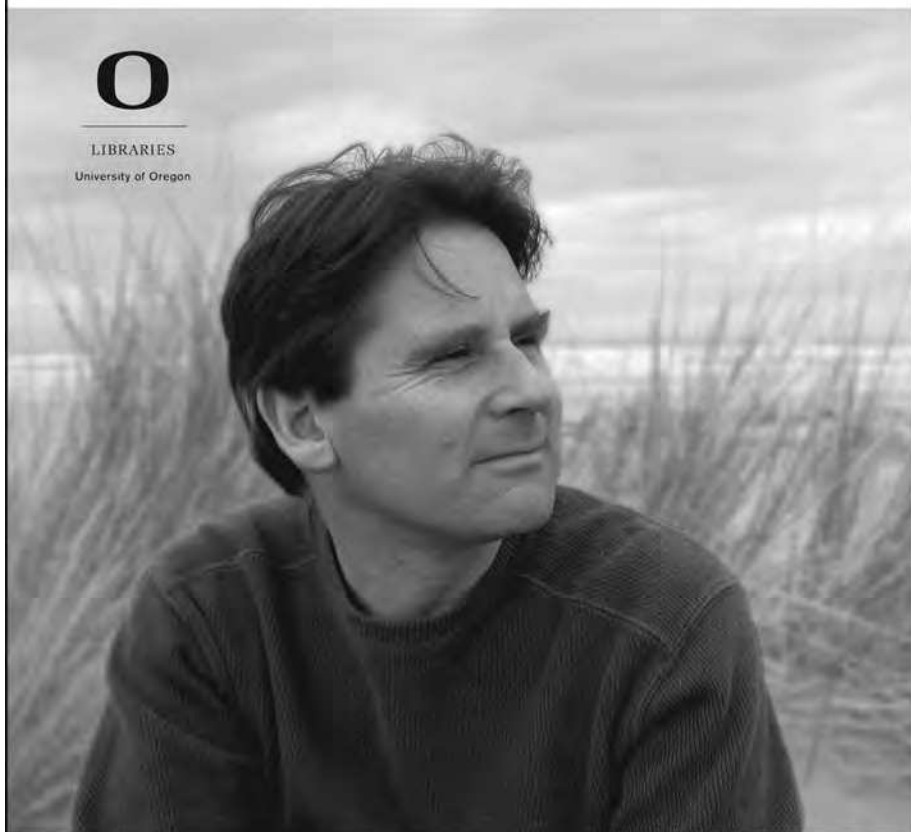
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

voted for the bill when that effort failed.

Please get more information about this issue now and urge your representatives in government to do the same. We are at a critical juncture in our time when we have an opportunity to recognize the importance of balance over short-term maintenance of our addiction to oil for energy. There *are* alternatives — some of which are less convenient at the moment — that can be *real solutions*. Let's exercise our responsibility as citizens of a democratic society and demand representation in our government for change. More importantly, let's have the courage of our convictions and as Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Mike Janes
Eugene

FOREST TWEAKERS

I felt angry after reading Chris Pender's letter (11/10) about drug hype. Whether it's an epidemic or only a problem, drug use is self-centered and antisocial. The people who do it don't think about how their habit affects their community or the places where the drug is manufactured. Now drugs are showing up on the public lands, which is sacred space to me. A few weeks ago, someone destroyed my windshield at a trailhead — probably a tweaker.

Please get off your beer-, pot-, cocaine-, and meth-coated pacifiers, and keep your beer cans and toxic labs out of our forests.

Joanne Vinton
Eugene

SPEAK UP

Do you hike, bike, raft, canoe, kayak, bird watch, cross-country ski, fish, or hunt? If so, chances are you use and benefit from Oregon's public lands, rivers and streams. As an outdoor enthusiast, you have a vested interest in keeping those forests and waterways in prime condition.

What is the dominant threat to Oregon's wild areas? The greedy and short-sighted logging of our remaining forests. What person in his right mind would choose to hike through the nasty scar of a clearcut, or fish in a silted stream? If it is important to you to maintain the high quality of your outdoor experience, it is in your best interest to oppose all subsidized logging on your public lands.

You might not be able to do everything, but you can do SOMETHING! It's easy to get involved — just find your role: Write a letter, attend a rally, comment on a timber sale, lead a hike, send an e-mail, speak up in church, put on a benefit, volunteer for a local environmental organization, get creative.

Wait a second, you may say: "I *never* use public lands! I don't owe the forests anything!" Well, do you need fresh AIR to breathe, clean *water* to drink, rich *topsoil* to grow your food?! It's not just for the forests' sake, but humanity's sake as well.

Don't you think it's time we give back a little of what we've taken (for granted)?

Ben Castle
Eugene

MORALE BOOST

Kudos to the readers of *EW* for their choice of Jeffrey Luers as "Best Activist"! I wholeheartedly disagree with Vip Short (11/17). Peg Morton is an incredible activist and fully deserves our support, but Jeff is also

an incredible activist, and he's still sitting in prison with 17 years left on his sentence — if nothing else, he could probably use the morale boost more than Peg.

As for the commonly held notion that changing the world takes "multiple lifetimes," and the corresponding opinion that anyone in more of a hurry is therefore "immature," I have some bad news: The climate *isn't going to wait* for us to make up our minds!

Even with regard to social problems, it's all too easy for "gradual change" to become functionally equivalent to "no change at all." However, Jeff Luers didn't go to prison over a social problem, he went to prison over an environmental problem, one which is rapidly accelerating in its effects even as we watch. The ice sheets at the North Pole are not just thinking about melting, they are breaking off in huge chunks. The hurricanes that hit Louisiana and Texas this summer were directly related to rising sea temperatures. This crisis isn't going to "just get better" on its own, and pretending it isn't happening is not going to prepare us to deal with the inevitable catastrophe we've created.

Jeff Luers sacrificed 23 years of his life to get this message out to people who don't want to hear it. Even from behind bars, and despite constant harassment and interference from the authorities, he's still making every effort to spread his message. If you want to support him in a more substantial way, find out how at: www.freefreenow.org

Chris Calef
Eugene

THE GREAT SHIFT

God has given us this beautiful planet Earth, with more than enough for everyone. There is truly no excuse for starving people. It has to go back into balance. The planet is doing just that. It is clear as a bell, how the Earth is reacting now, with all the natural disasters. Taking people off the planet, shaking us up and bringing us together.

I will never forget how I felt when 9/11 happened in New York. I knew I would never be the same. I knew the human race would never be quite the same. As those buildings fell to the ground, I felt a shift in my spirit. Now I call it The Great Shift of human consciousness. The world stopped on that unbelievable morning in New York. I refuse to buy into the fear. We will face and love each other. I believe this is why God put us here. I believe the next time the world is brought to a halt, it will be in the hands of love.

Paul Casey
Eugene

BUSH FAILURE

Now that the Bush administration has succeeded in proving itself to be a failure and Dick Cheney/Karl Rove have emerged as the prime architects of that failure,

we can start planning our way out of the pickle of being thought of as bestial torturers and mass murderers by the rest of the world.

After the wrecking ball of Fitzgerald's justice has finalized the Bushes' demise we will need to show that America can pick up the pieces and build something better than Humpty-Dumpty with a heart of terror and a fragile shell of lies. Healing and reconstruction are the important tasks ahead for the thought and action of all decent Americans.

Bob Saxton
Eugene