

neutralized because the catalytic converter, being cold, isn't doing its job yet. So, better ignore the bumper stickers that say "Breathe Deeply."

By the way, cold and therefore thicker oil at low engine RPMs can't lubricate the engine as well, resulting in increased abrasion. Worse yet, micro corrosion of your cylinder walls due to briefly condensing water vapor makes your engine feel very unloved, believe me. The upshot: Warm-up-idling harms your engine, and poisons the air that you, passing school kids, and I breathe.

So, please just start the engine, and get going. Just don't rev it up like a race car. By the way, regarding the comfort of a warm car: If it's cold out, you're likely to be wearing a coat and gloves anyway (perhaps almost enough to keep you warm on a bike?). See you on the bike path?

Peter Reppe
Eugene

THE PRETENDER

This so-called president says he did not break the law. This ignoble simpleton, to begin with, has not the capacity to understand the law (i.e. the Constitution), never mind follow, respect and honor it. All he is is a mouthpiece for a cadre of lawyers, advisors and consultants. The previously corporate private sector "game" of public relations has been totally adopted, embraced and adapted to the present pretender to the highest office in the land.

Although it is debatable if he has ever read a book or magazine from cover to cover, it is a fact that he is the only individual to have occupied this cherished office with no volume in print or published papers. Holy Christ, he can barely speak the English language.

It is time we, as a people, ask ourselves how much longer we shall tolerate this buffoon. George Washington must surely be turning over in his grave, not to mention Jefferson, Adams, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy.

In such times of madness, all a man or woman can do is have faith and say or think or pray, "God save us all. God save our precious form of government." Surely this tactic is better than eventual armed revolution in the streets of America.

Terry Heintz
Eugene

FEAR AND APATHY

Jeff Free Luers gets my vote for Best Activist. He not only risked his freedom in an attempt to awaken people, he's still speaking out from prison. Vip Short (12/15) may choose to overlook the facts, but that doesn't change them. Trying to reform our failed democracy is a losing proposition, and violence is something done to live beings, not

inanimate property.

If one follows world events closely, it is clear who the terrorists really are: the transnational corporations and their participants including Bush, Cheney and company. The WTO, NAFTA, and the IMF contribute to increased destruction of Earth's land, water and air - depleting world resources while blatantly disregarding anyone in their way. Deadly chemicals created and released by corporate interests are directly responsible for many cancers and respiratory ailments. All for greed, power, imperialism. Bush and Cheney have already pocketed the profits and will continue. And why? Because the American public is paralyzed by fear and/or apathy.

The most recent FBI arrests of alleged "eco-terrorists" shines a light on these issues. The intent is to spread fear deep and wide among environmental activists who may gain support or inspiration from others, confrontational efforts.

Focusing energy on Free's unreasonable sentence of almost 23 years is not a wasted effort; support of political prisoners is essential in these times when more people in the U.S. will be serving time in prison for their political beliefs and actions. Please don't discount the importance of that support.

Sherry Franzen
Eugene

MURDER FOR MONEY

OK. To review, quickly: The vast forests of our land have met the same fate as the indigenous human population as white settlement became permanent industrial society — disease and genocide. Clearing for other uses and exporting raw materials brought both to become tiny remnants of their former selves.

One can write a book or make a film extolling the many economic virtues of industrial extraction and production, but such positing always, necessarily, leaves out the murder involved — the destruction of ecosystems and peoples for money.

My point is this: Just because most of the ancient Oregon forest ecosystem has been converted to settlements, clear-cuts, tree farms and roads, it doesn't follow that we need it to stay that way. I have no fear of forestry. I have a healthy fear of mechanistic thinking applied to profiting from the web of life.

Forests are multidimensional organisms and the destruction of them in recent years has been done by highly automated, oil-dependent wood products. Industry and governmental agencies subsidize the costs involved. What would a society be like that decided to re-wild vast stretches of formerly forested areas (even corporate property) and also protected remaining untrammelled land so that it could live out its natural life? To do this, that society would need to value corporate expan-



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