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## TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

BY SHANNON WHEELER



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FEEDING CYNICISM

Mayor Piercy's Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI) is a project, with great intentions, that is dangerously misleading.

On Friday, Dec. 30, SBI Task Force Co-chair Rusty Rexius told the Eugene City Club that the local timber industry was already practicing sustainability. Perhaps he has not seen the massive clear-cuts visible from satellites, or is unaware that nearly every timber company in the region is spraying cancer-causing herbicides, even in the watershed that supplies Eugene's drinking water.

At Mayor Piercy's State of the City address Jan. 5, she gave an award to the local Staples franchise, despite the fact that their use of recycled content paper is minimal. (They sold higher-content recycled paper and rechargeable batteries for flashlights a decade ago. Staples sells crap made in China, styrofoam cups and toxic cleaners — not sustainability.)

Perhaps these pseudo-environmental efforts misunderstand what "sustainability" means. It does not mean nice rhetoric and smug self-congratulation. It does not mean merely being slightly more efficient in our consumption of non-renewable resources.

Sustainability would require living without fossil fuels and other practices that degrade the biosphere's ability to sustain life. While it is important to recognize steps away from the brink, we must be honest about the vast gulf between our addiction to destructive behaviors and what sustainability would require to implement.

Promoting vague ideals of "sustainability" without making serious changes to city policies, tax codes, building standards, land use patterns and other structural shifts is unlikely to accomplish much. "Sustainability" rhetoric that praises corporate greenwash and deforestation will merely create more cynicism.

Mark Robinowitz  
Eugene

### COMEUPPANCE TIME

Your "Happy Next Year" predictions (12/29) were right on target. As a resident of the Westmoreland student apartments, I especially enjoyed the comeuppance slated for UO

President Frohnmayer. The Westmoreland Tenants Council, ASUO, SEIU, Student Senate, Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, Association of Nontraditional Students, State Rep. Bob Ackerman, and many more will be working to prove you right, leading justice-minded Eugeneans in the fight to save Westmoreland.

Robert Adams  
Eugene

### TRUE VIOLENCE

There's been a lot of talk lately about "eco-terrorists" burning down buildings and committing other acts of property destruction. Arson and vandalism are definitely against the law, but isn't labeling these acts "terrorism" a bit like crying wolf?

When I think of terrorism, I think of violence directed towards people, as I'm sure most Americans do following 9/11. The deliberate infliction of bodily harm or loss of life on an individual is indeed a grave threat to American citizens. These are the truly violent crimes that need to be dealt with swiftly and firmly.

Several examples of such crimes occurred in the McKenzie Ranger District of your Willamette National Forest over the months of August, September and October of 2005. On FOUR separate occasions, bullets and arrows were fired at peaceful citizens (one arrow actually cutting someone's hand) protesting the logging of the Sten timber sale, a tract of mature forest in the McKenzie River watershed, the drinking water supply of Eugene.

Despite first-hand reports by citizens, including the physical description of the attacker, his vehicle and license plate number, Forest Service law enforcement and the Lane County Sheriff have done little to nothing to investigate these crimes. Unless, of course, you count citing and detaining three activists, there to prevent or document further shootings.

Four instances of attempted murder have occurred on your public lands directed at peaceful citizens outraged enough by the destruction of their remaining wild areas and drinking water supply to actually do something about it. And law enforcement is practically ignoring the at-