

I am disgusted at this type of thinking. It seems to me that he is saying that because the Japanese government, and some individuals, perpetrated horrible war crimes, that innocent women and children deserved to be killed, or worse yet, have every inch of skin burned off of their body by an atomic bomb. Which, by the way, was intentionally dropped on a civilian target.

I truly believe that this thinking is the root of the problems right now in Israel. Sure, Israelis have the right to not live in fear, but the Lebanese children who are killed daily in "revenge" raids did nothing wrong.

The peace groups that want to remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki are only trying to prevent that type of thing from ever happening again by reminding us of how horrible it was — a task that will become increasingly harder with narrow minded people running the world.

Nathan Krusi
Eugene

MAD? GO VEGGIE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced yesterday (7/20) that it is cutting testing for mad cow disease by 90 percent, from one per hundred of cows slaughtered to one per thousand. The move was applauded by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and condemned by consumer groups and by Japan, which called for more intensive testing before resuming imports of U.S. beef.

Mad cow disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), is a degeneration of brain tissue leading to erratic behavior and death. It is transmitted through feeding of infected brain and spinal tissues to other cows. Human consumption of infected beef leads to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), a deadly dementia frequently confused with the Alzheimer's disease that affects millions.

Federal safety measures, including the 1997 ban on feeding potentially infected cow

WE NEED A CRITICAL MASS, BUT HOW TO GET THERE?

The Center for Appropriate Transport (CAT) would like to clarify our position regarding Eugene's Critical Mass rides. CAT has always taken a position of non-participation in Critical Mass rides. Over the years some staff have ridden on the rides but never as a part of CAT. There are three reasons for this position. First, the political nature of Critical Mass doesn't include overt leadership. Second, the nature of Critical Mass in Eugene has at times been a non-celebratory, violent clash between cyclists, motorists and police. Third, and most importantly, CAT's mission is education, not political action.

Since our founding in 1992, we have worked from the premise that developing a bicycle culture through practical, day-to-day integration is one of the most powerful ways to make change. At Eugene Bicycle Works, we have taught thousands of people how to work on their own bikes. Our Alternative Education Program has taught hundreds of teens how to design and fabricate many types of human powered vehicles. CAT's *Oregon Cycling Magazine* integrates youth into bicycle journalism and photography. Youth from CAT have parked many thousands of bicycles at local events. Pedalers Express moves goods and parcels (including *Eugene Weekly* every Thursday) throughout the city, quietly and cost-effectively replacing fossil fuel vehicles. Eugene Rack Works has provided hundreds of businesses with the ubiquitous staple-shaped bike racks. We put on the Human Powered Parade for five years in a row. Of the many ways to advocate for change, these are our preferred methods.

Even though we feel strongly about the many negative effects of the car, in our work we have chosen the strategy of providing choices rather than trying to define "appropriate." As our name indicates, we think the primary step that each and every one of us can make is to be more careful about our choices. Our name is a spin-off from the era of Appropriate Technology, the movement to develop alternative energy sources that was inspired by the oil embargo of 1973. As using a chainsaw to cut a rose isn't generally considered using appropriate technology, likewise, using a car to go five blocks to the store isn't usually considered using an appropriate transport mode. We feel that by making appropriate transport choices we can strongly reduce our negative impact on world events and the environment.

We do believe that there is a need for many styles of advocacy, considering the severity of the problem. Until cars cause less harm, Critical Mass is sure to be a part of the political landscape. Considering recent events around the world it is as valid a social/ political movement as any. Yet there are two distinctly different images of Critical Mass rides. One is of screaming cyclists and motorists. Of cars running over bikes. Of police roughing up cyclists. The other is from a ride in San Francisco with over 5,000 cyclists. There was a woman with flowers, passing them out to car drivers waiting at intersections. There were cyclists purposefully de-escalating the conflicts that came up. Children and adults were laughing and happy riding down big city streets. In that latter image there is a celebration of cycling and a dream of how the world might be. That is what CAT wishes and strives for.

Jan VanderTuin
Director, CAT

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