

Our public lands should not be used as a garbage dump or a personal toilet.

Susan J. Swanson
Eugene

POOP EVERYWHERE

In the Aug. 3 *EW* cover story on swimming holes, Fall Creek was mentioned. I quit going to Fall Creek Lake for a safe place to dive after snorkeling some backwater. I was disgusted to find used diapers had been thrown into the lake from campsites just on shore. The water was about 15 feet deep there with little movement.

Currently I'm fighting ear infections from the water at Foster Reservoir in Sweet Home. Having just come from Alton Baker Park and seeing the devastation (pooping all over) the wild birds have done to make the park unusable, it is a crime, and the city won't pressure wash it clean. It stinks so bad you can't walk around near the pond. Is this Eugene's ground zero for a bird flu outbreak?

Jeff Fuidotti
Albany

MOTORHEAD MENTALITY

I am a year-round bicycle commuter, so I'm always interested to read about bike-related issues like those in last week's (8/10) *EW*. I am horrified by the impact of our car culture on the world. War, climate change, air and water pollution are among the many problems our children and generations to come must contend with because of our addiction to oil and the combustion engine. Communication about these issues is essential. So, I appreciate *EW*'s choice of topics.

I stopped participating in Mass rides because of the aggressive and erratic actions of the police toward cyclists. The number of citations during Critical Mass in Eugene compared to other cities speaks to this overzealous nature. Chief Lehnert's comment in the article about Massers not filling out a parade permit shows how influenced he is by the motorhead mentality. The hot rodders don't

fill out parade permits before they convoy up and down River Road in mass.

I have reduced my reliance on cars thanks to the amazing bikes produced at the Center for Appropriate Transport (CAT). The CAT bikes allow me to safely and effectively transport my family—including my year-old daughter, who has been riding with us in a long-haul bike since she was two weeks old. Our food is also transported by a long-haul and trailer built at CAT. Sarah Mazze's description of CAT in the sidebar article "Funky Bikes" does not do justice to what the center has to offer or what CAT does for the community and the planet.

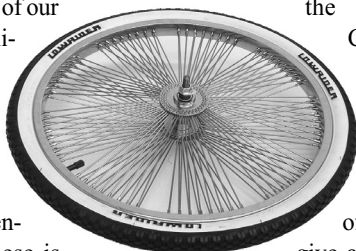
Stacey Janssen
Eugene

BIKE IT OUT

I am an avid cyclist. My children and I run errands almost daily on our bicycles. Before each bike ride I tell my children to ride as if the drivers of the cars can't see you. We put our safety first, wear helmets and lights and follow the rules of the road. We ride on the bike paths and take the streets with bike lanes as much as possible.

On almost every ride we are harassed by motorists and usually have to endure obscenities being shouted at us from passing cars. Eugene was given a "Gold Medal" rating on the Bicycle Friendly Communities website, and it is great to have the many miles of bike lanes and wonderful bike paths. I would argue that the attitudes of the motorists of Eugene give a better indication of our bicycle friendliness, and my experiences have not been gold medal standard.

It just doesn't seem friendly or safe to ride in Eugene when a 6-year-old child, riding on a Burley Piccolo behind her mother, and an 11-year-old riding carefully behind them must endure having obscenities screamed at them from passing motorists. We ride for fun and exercise, to get one more car off the road and to teach my children that they need to live their lives as free of dependence on a car as possi-



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"Ah, that is a perfume in which I delight; when they roast coffee near my house, I hasten to open the door to take in all the aroma."

—Jean Jacques Rousseau

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