

velop such places because we value the ability to age with control and choices about the way we live."

Andrew Weil (natural health guru, speaker and author of *Aging Gracefully*) envisions a co-housing/commune for the many retiring "hippie folks" who have a similar housing desire with a slant towards sustainable living. Consider the Sears pit as an underground residential garage/storage facility for bikes and "shared" vehicles with a garden/park on top for growing food and to supply a green respite from concrete. Elder travelers want a simple home base to return to in an apartment that's secure and ready for reconnecting with neighbors and family. Commercial opportunities abound.

Developers of Eugene downtown take note: "Exploit the inevitable."

Martha Snyder
Eugene

FACING EARTH RUPTCY

Think of Gaia (Earth's biosphere, having a controlled metabolism), or God if you like, as a hard-nosed banker. I have no clear evidence that either is overly caring about humans. We've been borrowing on our environmental account ever since we learned to control fire and use agriculture. But in the last couple centuries, with our increasing population and the use of fossil fuels, most recently oil, we've greatly expanded our compound interest debt. We haven't been keeping up with our payments. We're approaching the point where the most we can pay won't be enough to keep up with the added "interest."

Interest means the increasing "natural" sources of CO2 and higher temperatures, such as melting polar and glacial ice reducing sunlight reflectance, melting permafrost, more and hotter forest fires, warmer oceans, faster decomposition of organic matter and possibly the relatively sudden breakdown of methane hydrates on the ocean floors, all releasing more CO2 and/or methane (a much more powerful greenhouse gas). When we reach this point, bankruptcy, or Earthruptcy, seems imminent. What are the chances we'll get off with just some time in "debtor's prison"?

I hear 44 percent of Americans feel that the apocalypse/Armageddon/rapture is coming before global warming gets bad, and Jesus will judge the good and bad. I wonder on what basis they feel he'll judge how we treated God's creation with greed and denial of responsibility?

Maybe "Jesus is coming, and is he ever pissed" is more appropriate than ever.

Dan Robinson
Eugene

THE ZERO OPTION

The dirty deed is done. Bush's Forest Service has begun the first roadless forest logging since the 2001 Roadless Rule. As you read this, 300-year-old trees fall to the chainsaw in the Siskiyou National Forest, despite millions of public comments in favor of roadless area protections, despite the legal action of the governors of Oregon, Washington and New Mexico, despite valiant efforts of conservation groups and concerned citizens.

This was the environmental issue of the century and we lost. Big time. So where do we go from here?

As I see it, the environmental movement has three choices:

- We can throw in the towel and resign ourselves to the inevitable liquidation of our once-great heritage forests (luckily, working for the public interest forbids this).

- We can continue on the same path we've been trudging for decades: fighting timber sale by timber sale, playing only defense. Yet the clear pattern that emerges from this approach is an endless chipping away at our remaining 5% of native forests.

- We can learn from our mistakes and develop a whole new game plan — playing offense instead of defense — which will take nothing short of a unified effort by green groups everywhere. And the first question the movement needs to ask itself is: How much more of our forests are we going to let them cut? 50 percent? 25 percent? 10 percent? Honestly, what figure could we ever agree on besides zero? Zero cut on public lands.

Josh Schlossberg
Eugene

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