

Having so many SUVs for mainly city driving makes no sense for many people. My Prius is giving me an 80 percent MPG increase in town, with near zero emissions.

If I can change, then hopefully people on the other side will someday be able to reject violence.

Lance Jacobs
Springfield

SAVE YOURSELF

I'm responding to Jeffrey Luers' letter (1/25), and his taking offense at being compared to a "right-wing pro-life" arsonist. What Luers seems to not be able to understand is that when the cause, however well intentioned, becomes sacrificed to the means, then you've lost public support for your actions.

Personally I detest SUVs and the mass consumption culture they represent. However, I can't support the actions of "eco-saboteurs" and the like, who would burn down the world to save it. I am extremely doubtful that arson has become justifiable in the eyes of the general public even if the cause is "right." That Luers neglected to give an example of the exception is unsurprising.

Luers' inability to see the difference between his actions and those using non-violent methods to further the cause of environmental sanity puts him squarely in the camp of terrorists, no different than those who would firebomb an abortion clinic. In fact, his actions are a stain on the environmental movement and are no doubt welcomed by those who would paint real environmentalists as "wackos."

If he wasn't rotting in jail (his choice), I would say he could have been a paid provocateur of the timber and oil industries. Mr. Luers, forget about saving the world from your jail cell. Save yourself, reconsider your mindset, and repent!

Jeff Innis
Eugene

ROBOCOURT

I know everyone's done trying to nickname the courthouse, but when I was chowing down at IHOP today I thought a good one

would be "RoboCourt." Straight out of "New Detroit." Now I'd buy that for a dollar!

Steve Crowe
Eugene

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The critics of Commissioners Dwyer, Sorenson and Fleenor and their decision to not reappoint Mike Schwartz to the Fair Board need to take a closer look. The Fairgrounds belong to everyone in Lane County, and these commissioners have stepped in to remind the Fair Board of the public good.

Shaking up the Fair Board and getting new members with the greater public interest in mind is just what the commissioners should be doing. Thank you Commissioners Dwyer, Sorenson and Fleenor for having the courage to take a stand.

Jim Crain
Eugene

CRIME IN THE FOREST

Clearcuts were once the new beginning of life in the forest. Now the industrial timber industry has changed all that. It is now the end of an ecological system the Earth had known for millions of years. The poisoning of the Earth after clearcutting has changed our ecosystem in a way we will not comprehend for many years to come. It allows for only certain types of vegetation and a monocrop of trees bred for short-term economic gain. I feel that the poisoning of our Earth for any reason is a "crime against humanity" and it terrorizes all human beings who have any compassion for our future generations.

May the New Year bring compassion for our Earth to all human beings who rely on this Earth for their sustenance.

Fred Mentzer
Greenleaf

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