

tims of predatory pedophile priests have rewarded the Portland Archdiocese conspiracy of silence.

Financial bankruptcy? Doubtful. Moral bankruptcy? Debatable. Wily strategy? Doubtless.

*Jerome Garger  
Yachats*

**SEX IS SACRED**

In Response to "Savage Bonds," Beth Olson's (2/15) letter, I'd like to say I find this column harmful for children and adults. And yes, Beth, I do home school my children. I don't let them watch television, and I do decide which movies are appropriate for their age levels.

However, they are in no way "banned from social activities with the outside world." They get to experience the real world and become real people, not media controlled zombies who forget how to think for themselves. They are involved in positive activities that will shape them into being the beautiful, kind, loving beings we are *all* meant to be.

Sex is supposed to be a loving, sacred act. We can all agree that some of our most beautiful experiences have come through sexual acts. This society has lost all respect for sex and a lot of other things that are supposed to be important. Then we wonder why divorce rates are on the rise, teens are having babies they are not ready to raise, or why diseases are everywhere. Disrespectful, sleazy columns belong in sleazy magazines. *EW* should publish articles that enrich the community, not corrupt it.

*JoAnne Berger  
Vida*

**GREED = MESS**

In light of the outrage over the recent vote by county commissioners to enact a new county income tax, perhaps it's worth asking the question: "How did we get into this mess?"

The simple answer is that we got greedy and squandered our inheritance. When the national forests were created 100 years ago, the federal government agreed to give a percentage of timber sales revenue to county governments to offset lost property taxes. Sustainably managed for timber, water, wildlife habitat and recreation, these forests *should* have met our needs in relative perpetuity. But we got greedy and logged too much, too fast.

In the '70s the Forest Service and BLM

were told by researchers that the spotted owl needed old-growth habitat to survive. They ignored the data, hoping that the spotted owl problem would (literally) go away as they accelerated cut levels.

In the '80s the pro-business Reagan and Bush administrations authorized drastic increases to the annual cut levels on federal forestland.

In the '90s the Clinton administration inherited 25-plus years of overcutting and ignored science about old-growth forest systems. The FS and BLM were forced by the courts to obey the environmental laws that they had been willfully ignoring. The Clinton Forest Plan reduced the cut from 14 billion bd. ft. to 2 billion bd. ft., but it was too little, too late.

In the short term, many people benefited from the overcutting, but now we're stuck dealing with the consequences of our short-term greed — kinda sucks, doesn't it?

*Loren Brower  
Springfield*

**CHANGE NOW**

I agree wholeheartedly with Shannon Wilson's letter (3/8) on ideas to help slow climate change. EWEB should invest \$90 million into solar energy and conservation incentive programs rather than build a new facility. A year-round covered farmer's market instead of a parking garage. Common sense moves. How about expanding and merging the community garden and school garden projects so we could have community gardens in every school grounds in the summer when school is not in session? Or a "Star Light City Night" project to make it mandatory all unnecessary lights are turned out in public buildings after hours and in privately owned buildings as well? Lowering the speed limit would immediately save millions of pounds of carbon from being pumped into the atmosphere. Clearcut logging should cease.

We can't have a "business as usual" approach anymore, and we have to cut through the bureaucracy. There is money to be made in renewable energy, local farming, new innovations. Not only do we need to help slow climate change, we need to prepare for it. Local farming, energy production and conservation are key. We need leaders who aren't afraid of blazing new trails, not the too little, too late approach that is currently being promoted.

*Pamela Driscoll  
Dexter*

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