

**INSULT TO THE DEAD**

As someone who wrote a book (*The Culture of Make Believe*) that details the history of the KKK, I was both appalled and not surprised to see a prosecuting attorney compare the Green Scare defendants to the KKK. I was appalled because the comparison is both absurd and utterly false.

The KKK murdered tens of thousands of people. A 19th century commanding officer of federal troops in Texas wrote: "Murders of Negroes are so common as to render it impossible to keep accurate accounts of them."

In the weeks preceding the presidential election of 1868, at least 2,000 people were killed or wounded by Klan violence just in Louisiana. This violence carried right on into the 20th century.

Contrast that with the defendants in this case, who are accused of nothing more serious than property destruction. Even if they were guilty of everything with which they've been charged, they injured no person.

They destroyed only corporate and governmental property. This in no way compares to the terrorism of the Klan (or any other terrorism, for that matter).

I am not, however, surprised to see a prosecutor in this case make this absurd and inflammatory comparison, since from the beginning this case has been more about public relations than substance.

To call for a terrorism enhancement in this case is to devalue the very real suffering of real victims of terrorism the world over. No one was killed. No one was injured. No one was put in fear of his/her life.

No one was terrorized. It is obscene and an insult to the dead, the injured, the real terrorized, to apply that label in this case.

*Derrick Jensen  
Crescent City, Calif.*

**A WONDROUS PLACE**

Just a few miles from downtown Eugene — easily accessible by common transport — lies a most magical and wondrous place: the Amazon Creek Headwaters. A largely intact bio-diverse forest, the headwaters has — for good reason — gone undeveloped to date. But that condition is threatening to change.

From wee lichens to in-your-face woodpeckers to ghostly owls, the headwaters hosts hundreds of uncommon and rare species. More common are the thousands of Eugeneans who choose to visit this idyllic spot to detox from city life, walk dogs, pursue health and fitness, introduce children to nature or simply observe. But whether one visits or not, the headwaters provides clean water and fresh air.

What the headwaters doesn't provide is a good place to build houses: too wet, too sloped, too unstable. Yet two individuals

have submitted plans to develop 65 of its acres. These applications have been rejected so far, but the developers come with money and a cadre of paid professionals in support of their efforts.

A remedy is at hand. The City Council is presently considering an ordinance authorizing the institution of eminent domain to acquire this property. Fair market value will be paid to the developers, and the land will be protected forever as park and open space.

Please urge Mayor Piercy and our city councilors to enact this ordinance. For the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees — and the citizens of Eugene — let's do the right thing!

*Benton Elliott  
Eugene*

**WHO OWES?**

Is "UO" an abbreviation or a phoentic two-word phrase that describes the boat most of its students are in? Just wonderin'.

*Glenn Leonard  
Eugene*

**GO TO THE ROOTS**

Animal shelters can operate in vastly different ways. Curtis Taylor ("Say No to No-Kill," 5/17) describes one kind of shelter when he says that "No-kill shelters ... cannot accept all the animals who are in need of help" and which "direct people with unadoptable, old, injured or sick animals to facilities that have no choice but to kill the animals." Indeed, this is how some no-kill shelters operate.

Fortunately for Mr. Taylor, animal welfare advocates in Lane County are not calling for the construction of an isolated, underfunded, overburdened no-kill shelter. They are instead wisely building a self-sustaining no-kill community philosophy. This is not just semantics; a no-kill community philosophy is one in which the entire community takes responsibility for all animals in need, rather than leaving it to a single agency or shelter. It is a visionary community that puts proven programs into place. These innovative programs will help animals today but will also reduce the need for "animal control and sheltering" services tomorrow.

Sounds too good to be true? See how other communities have already successfully achieved this goal at [www.nokillsolutions.org](http://www.nokillsolutions.org). Don't miss reading *Diary of A Shelter Director*, which demonstrates how "a simple, firm commitment to stop the killing, and the flexibility to see it through" could be utilized at our local shelters.

A no-kill community does not develop overnight, and not every animal will be saved in the beginning. But it is time for a new, ef-



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