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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(notably Iran) show us to be on the wrong side of history, in effect if not by intent. For our trouble we have bought the hostility of a large majority of humankind, a dangerous legacy for our kids and grandkids (not to mention the fouling of our nest, Earth — we're responsible for one-third of all greenhouse gasses — causing greater climate change than any other factor in eco-history). I want to believe that we have a potential for benign influence equal to the malign influence we've thus far expressed. To that end, I'll continue to work for positive change even if that's more against the odds than ever. Our only world is much too beautiful to give up without a (nonviolent) fight.

*Paul Prensley
Eugene*

SPRAWL AT FAULT

Recently I heard an interviewee proclaim that the U.S. has become a net importer of food. This condition probably makes sense to the commodities markets, but from any other standpoint it is beyond ridiculous.

The North American continent is the only land mass on the globe which has consistently been able to produce food surpluses. Asia, Europe and Africa have all experienced famines. China had to implement population growth restrictions because neither they nor we can support the increases they would have experienced without their one-child limit.

Since WWII, the U.S. has been paving over farmland to make space for suburban sprawl. Our population continues to grow, and restricting that is unacceptable to most people. We have no collective memory of famine to influence behavior or policies.

As we sprawl, the food can get pushed into less productive acreage so that even if the same amount of land is used, it may not produce as much. And when agriculture gets pushed into hilly areas, there are additional problems with erosion. Global climate change is also going to cut into the food supply. There have already been losses from the recent freeze in California.

As anyone who shops for groceries knows, prices have been climbing. Much of this can be blamed on fuel price hikes. Florida oranges are as common in Oregon as California oranges. We will probably be unable to afford food before we are unable to find it at all. But the time will come when that happens. Just keep sprawling.

*Karen Carlson
Eugene*

SUPPORT THE TASER

The June 7 viewpoint by Karen Kennedy, so critical of the Taser stun gun, greatly exaggerated its risks. As a member of Amnesty International, she obviously has an agenda to promote the propaganda that her organization has put together.

The long overdue decision by the Eugene PD to finally evaluate the Taser came about after the tragic killing of suicidal Eugene teenager Ryan Salisbury on Nov. 14 last year. There was *no way* for Ryan to possibly survive the horrific gunshot wounds that police inflicted on him. Many readers probably do not know that an automatic military M4 rifle (the same weapon issued to our troops in Iraq) was used to kill Ryan. This weapon shoots a bullet with three times the destructive energy of bullets from police handguns. The four high-velocity bullets that ripped through his body were thus equivalent to him being shot 12 times by police handguns.

On the Taser International website, you will see numerous studies by police departments in many major cities, showing what an effective and non-lethal tool it is when properly used.

Ms. Kennedy would better serve our community by promoting restrictions on the use of the M4 by the EPD rather than trying to unfairly demonize the Taser. For example: The M4 should never again be deployed against suicidal people.

Not another person should be allowed to so easily commit suicide by cop in Eugene. Please support the EPD having the Taser.

*Lance Jacobs
Springfield*

CALL IT TREASON

Suddenly, the same Republicans who histrionically proclaimed Bill Clinton's perjury about a personal intimacy with a consenting adult reprehensible are now defending Scooter Libby for perjuring himself despite the seriousness of the offense. His lies, besides exposing a covert CIA agent, may have caused the deaths of other covert agents who were actively working with Valerie Plame Wilson. According to the former President Bush, revealing the identity of a covert agent is tantamount to treason.

It is amazing that the now proven blatant deceptions of the American public to steer our country into an unwarranted war that had absolutely nothing to do with 9/11 do not cause all these same self-proclaimed "moral" people to be up in arms against this administration. Nor have they reacted to the revela-

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