

cated that almost 70 percent of Americans believe environmental quality is getting worse. It is no longer possible for any of us to ignore these issues in good conscience.

*Rebecca Smith
Graduate Student, Environmental Science
Missoula, Mont.*

EMBEDDED MAYORS

Your June 21 cover was priceless! I got one of my biggest laughs in ages. Politics aside, the artist [Dan Pegoda] totally caught the essence of Kitty and Sid. Seriously, I certainly hope that in the future they do become better bedfellows.

*Jane Dods
Springfield*

FEAR OF THE OUTCOME

"Splitsville," *EW's* article (6/21) detailing recent state legislation allowing Springfield to establish their own urban growth boundary, was itself a piece of work. I certainly don't expect to read conservative journalism in the *EW*, but I do think opinion pieces should be labeled as such. Nowhere in the article was it mentioned that state law requires all UGB's to maintain a 20-year supply of buildable land. By ignoring this mandate, (or at least hiding from it), the Eugene City Council invited developers and the city of Springfield to act.

It is my belief that the Eugene City Council was unwilling to participate in a land study because they were afraid of the outcome, but judging from the chart comparing Springfield vs. Eugene, being the larger, wiser municipality may have led Eugene to believe they could "save" Springfield from its own demise.

I was also amused by the chart itself. I suppose the author didn't include the category "number of residents whose knuckles drag the ground" only because he couldn't cite an official source. But again, I guess we all intuitively know the results that such a survey would find. Perhaps *EW* should sponsor such a test. It might come in handy for those wanting to trash Springfield the next time around.

Of course, if it doesn't, that fact can simply be ignored.

*Rob Harvey
Eugene*

RELINQUISH THE POWER

The Iraq quagmire is an indication of the limits within which U.S. foreign policy must operate. The U.S. may be the last remaining superpower, but antagonists can resort to guerrilla warfare, terrorism and nuclear

weapons.

The U.S. must stop trying to dominate the world; it must instead relinquish power. The U.S. government must agree to make concessions to people of color and poor people. Lack of change will result in more and more disastrous wars.

The U.S. government attitude toward global warming is probably the most important example of the refusal to cede power. The Kyoto Accord necessarily makes concessions to the countries of the Global South, whose people labor under the insulting condition of living in "underdeveloped" countries.

If the world expects China to stop burning more and more coal in a drive for economic development, global economic inequality must become a priority target. If people in China are going to give up their quest to follow in the footsteps of the richer countries, then the U.S. lifestyle must be up for negotiation.

*Milton Takei
Eugene*

ACTIVE LGBT TEENS

Thank you for Suzi Steffen's excellent and entertaining guide (6/14) to teen novels featuring queer and transgender characters and issues!

The article began by acknowledging that it can be tough to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) in middle and high school, and asked the question, "So what's a queer or questioning young adult to do?"

Just want to let your readers know that in Eugene and Springfield, LGBTQ teens are doing plenty, along with supportive friends, teachers, parents, and community members. They're running Gay Straight Alliances at local high schools and colleges. They're writing articles for their school papers, creating skits and speaking up in class and on panels to inform others. They're meeting in support groups to share good times and bad. They're getting together to learn about and do everything from arts to political organizing. They're biking, dancing and going out for coffee.

Want to know more about local events for LGBTQ teens and their friends? Call 684-3466. Or for general information and support, visit Outproud! (www.outproud.org) or Advocates for Youth (www.youthresource.com).

And teens who'd like to talk to someone right now can do that 24/7. Call the national toll-free hotline for GLBTQ youth at (800) 850-8078; White Bird at 687-4000; or Looking Glass Station 7 at 689-3111.

*Laura Philips, MSW
GLBTQ Youth Group*



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