

ing. The quietest time of day: no phone calls, no loud conversations, no unnecessary interruption of sleep. It's a mark of civility that we respect one another's right to rest and save our commotion for the daylight hours. Everyone I know abides by this rule, and the only time it is breached is when a phone call comes telling of some emergency or tragedy.

Everyone, that is, except the railroad, which just woke me up once again. All night long, the train rumbles through town, repeatedly blasting its 120 decibel horn at each intersection. The sound carries for miles, banishing rest in the dark hours. Maybe you find the sound soothing or romantic, but realize that many others live nearer or more exposed to the tracks than you do, and they hear the train horn like a nightmare alarm. (By the way, I live more than two miles from the railroad tracks, so I did not choose to move next to this nuisance.)

Is it asking too much that the train engineers abide by common decency? Europe is not plagued by nightly train horns — why are we? Talk to your city councilor about a train quiet zone through the heart of Eugene, and maybe we can all get a bit more rest.

Larry Deckman
Eugene

EARTH WITH BORDERS

As a foolish idealist, I agree with both Mr. Banister's and Mr. Williamson's (7/5) position regarding the "illegals" problem we currently have in this country.

Mr. Banister seems to omit several facts regarding human beings. We tend to gravitate towards the easy way of doing things. We also have something that the Great Cosmos gave us: human genes. These genes make us act in very peculiar ways when it comes down to survival of the individual and of the species. We become competitive, and territorial towards each other. This can't be helped; it can be controlled to some extent, but never eliminated. We also have in our genes the ability to show love and compassion, but the evidence is overwhelming that these are secondary abilities when water, food and shelter are needed by the individual as a *matter of survival*.

There are tens of thousands of years of proof with regards to our actions towards one another. Wouldn't it be nice if we lived and worked where we wanted without having to cross borders and have to carry identity cards? Where everyone is recognized as an unique and equal individual? When most people in *all* countries decide this, at the same time, then we will have truly evolved to a higher spiritual level.

Opening borders one country at a time as some in the U.S. and Latin America would like to do will fail, as our troubled history has shown. We are *all* children of this planet, it obvious to me that the "open borders" advocates from Latin America don't really feel this way. They have their own agendas. We are definitely running out of time regarding human survival. So people, stop the stupid posturing!

Lou Andrews
Eugene

GREEN DELUSIONS

In the comic strip *Peanuts*, Lucy promises Charlie Brown that she will play fair, but each

time he runs to kick the football she is holding, she pulls it away and he falls down. His unhealthy infatuation with her is delusional naïveté, similar to what many Democrats have with the ongoing collapse of our political system.

If Eugene's liberals are really upset about continued corporate welfare for distant speculators who seek further homogenization of the city, then it's time to find a mayor and council who match "green" rhetoric with sincere policies. The city is promoting sports arenas, big box stores, three-quarter-billion dollars worth of new and wider highways in the metro area, and its "West Eugene Collaborators" have interesting loopholes for reviving part of the West Eugene Parkway.

The *Weekly's* complaint (Slant, 7/19) about our governor's flacking for the grass seed industry would have been more useful before his re-election. Perhaps they could examine how the statewide environmental groups endorsed his re-election despite his awful environmental policies (clearcuts and superhighways).

Democratic Party apparatchik Dan Carol's plea to Senator Obama to be more "green" failed to mention that Obama is in favor of burning more coal and is funded by polluting transnational corporations. But as bad as Obama's record is, it seems more likely that the Empire has picked Hillary, since she is even more compromised by her associations with Wal-Mart, toxic waste incineration and financial powers who also back the Bush crime family.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

STREET BILL

If you're in your car, on a bike or walking and are stopped at the light on the corner of 28th and Friendly, look up that hill and say goodbye to the view, because in two years that quiet respite on the eyes will be replaced with a sidewalk and parking bays, maybe even a wider street. And

I get to pay for these "improvements" to the tune of \$10,000-\$15,000 because I live on the street being reworked so Eugene and Lane County commuters above me have faster access to Jefferson Street — now a thoroughfare to 105 and I-5.

We tried to stop the city while Mayor Torrey was in office, but we couldn't. With this new mayor, we got a compromise — context sensitive designing. Those who live on the street gave input about how the street would look. I was shown options, all with sidewalks and parking bays, and was told to pick one. Like a good neighbor, I complied, and now find out that with the sidewalk on my side I'll have to shell out more money when the pavement deteriorates. Nope, I didn't know this when I voted, just like I still don't know what my final bill will be. Can you imagine agreeing to pay for something you don't know how much really costs, can't adequately research and don't want? Can't imagine the mayor or any city councilor agreeing to manage their personal finances in this way.

Jill Sager
Eugene

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