

IT'S OK TO TOOT

Cheers to Holiday Market for providing reusable flatware in the food court. I was really impressed by this and hope to see it at Saturday Market in the spring.

Jeers to Justin Bengtson (12/6) for ASSuming that local businesses are tooting their own horns by advertising their "greenness." Why is this different from businesses advertising their sales or anything else they offer? Environmentally conscious consumers prefer to support environmentally conscious businesses, and these businesses are advertising to these consumers. Maybe you need to consider why this type of advertising gets your panties in such a twist. And no, I'm not a hippie, but I do hope to steer clear of your "thick cloud of two-stroke smoke" while you and your scooter "grace" the streets of Eugene.

*Sheree Walters
Eugene*

SPEWING TOXIC STEW

Greetings! It certainly is good news that a coalition composed of citizens concerned with green urban renewal is growing stronger, for we have many challenges occurring as the new year approaches like a riptide below the lights of this season:

Various politicians flit between Iowa and New Hampshire, shrieking like caffeinated blue jays as Bush/Cheney, busy with commanding the ghosts they create, wanting more oil, being unrestrained, eye the holy sites of Iran and spew their toxic stew of fear and loathing, their carving knives and nuclear buttons at the ready.

Impeachment would be one appropriate form of apology, not only for the war crime of attacking Iraq but also for criminally subverting the attempts of many, many nations to work together to reduce global warming and its effects. (What would an attack on Iran, a nation of 65 million people, spawn?)

The incoming year has another undertow; do you see it? It's caused by world-wide droughts. For instance, Australia used to produce 60 percent of the world's wheat. That entire nation is now beset with severe water shortages, droughts that are also causing food prices to rise alongside fuel prices. In developed nations, many more people, including children and elders, will go hungry. How many more Africans and Asians will starve? How unbearably hot and dry will Central American countries become next summer?

Droughts in the southeast and southwest U.S. have damaged several food crops as cities like Atlanta, Dallas, Phoenix and L.A. continue to sprawl and demand more fresh water. And, of course, the ongoing die-off of crop-pollinating honeybees will magnify crop losses. How do you spell DEEP SHIT?

Yes, let's build a greener Eugene, planting

vegetable gardens everywhere, including at City Hall, with raised-bed gardening on every flat rooftop. And lawns? Who can eat grass?

Let us Eugeneans stand up, step up and speak out, demanding that Bush & Cheney resign, as we work together to create peace, help reduce global warming, plant more gardens and help feed and shelter humans in desperate need.

*Charles F. Thielman
Eugene*

IDLING IN TRAFFIC

Lane Council of Government's souped up (or slightly lower official) projected population growth numbers are staggering (*R-G* 12/13, page D1).

In 23 years some planners anticipate 127,000 to 133,000 newly arrived people will live in towns in the Willamette Valley. Coburg, Lowell and Veneta plan to triple or quadruple their size. Creswell, Junction City and Florence will nearly double their present size. Eugene/Springfield will grow a more modest 50 percent.

Rural residents will decrease nearly 40,000 as local urban growth boundaries expand. This incremental sprawl makes all towns in the county less environmentally sustainable and our beloved countryside less accessible. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require energy efficient building codes, zoning rules and transportation systems. Sky-high gas prices will sideline automobiles as a preferred mode of transport.

Building up outlying town infrastructure without revamping the systems connecting places like Lowell, Veneta, Junction City, Coburg, Creswell and Cottage Grove to Eugene/Springfield is short-sighted. Lane Transit District plans to eventually make EmX expansions within Eugene and Springfield, but little consideration appears to be going into the needs that all those folks residing in outlying towns will require to commute to work and to access commercial centers.

Where are plans for a more efficient regional commuter rail, bus rapid transit system and improved bike to bus and bike to train systems? Where are plans for bike paths connecting outlying towns to Eugene Springfield?

Hopefully we'll do more than dream, "Beam us up, Scotty!" while idling in traffic as 2030 approaches.

*Ethen Perkins
Eugene*

TORTURE TAPES

I don't understand all the fuss. I'm sure the CIA made copies and gave them to their friends for Christmas, like the KGB and various friendly, at least to us, ruthless dictators. Not to worry; once all the proper negotiations have been made and their people talk to our

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