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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEIGHBORHOOD DECLINE

Eugene's urban blight indeed. We've been homeowners in one neighborhood for more than 40 years and are stunned by the lack of interest from the city in the chipping away of livability here.

The rental across the street from us (illegally divided into apartments years ago) with its succession of tenants has housed an unending trail of individuals who show up for a few days or weeks. The accompanying pick-ups, cars, vans, etc., line the street. Abandoned vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles and other unidentifiable debris litter the front yard. A complaint to the city yielded an insipid and incompetent response.

Even worse was the city's failure to notify us that an adjacent owner had subdivided his small residential property, creating the possibility of clear cutting two wooded lots to build two houses, one not 10 feet from our house.

B.D. May's letter (1/0) is right on. What is happening here? Why are we in long established modest neighborhoods not receiving any attention? Candidates for City Council must speak to this issue and we're watching.

Mary Sherriffs
Eugene

THE HEAT IS ON

With all the talk about global warming and its significant impacts to our lives and to the natural world, I am appalled at the lack of public discussion about forests'

role in mitigating this global problem. Politicians and groups seeking to find a solution to human-caused climate change need to connect the dots: Healthy forest ecosystems store carbon, but cutting down forests releases carbon.

One of the best things we can do to combat global warming is protect and restore our forests. Luckily, many local groups ARE making this connection, and they're putting on a conference so *you* can make it, too. Prominent scientists and local activists are speaking on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 am to 6 pm at the UO (Lawrence 177). See www.forestclimate.org

Ellen Singer
Eugene

ADVICE IS DEMEANING

As a person of Anglo-Hispanic descent, I consider Mr. "¡Ask A Mexican!" to be an outright embarrassment. His smirking and self-righteous comments, written in less-than-literate Spanglish, represent a kind of ethnic chauvinism that should have died out decades ago. His "advice" is far from a genuine and meaningful attempt at helping to educate others.

His all-too-frequent use of the word *gabacho* (which actually means "sell-out") in reference to non-Mexicans is totally tasteless and demeaning. Let's hope that the next time Arellano chooses to wield this word, he's standing in front of a full-length mirror.

And since *EW* refuses to discontinue his

Winter blahs | Spring ahs

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