

to pay for a federal program! Or get rid of the tax loopholes for billionaires! There are many communities which believe everyone should have a home for safety and shelter. What would Jesus do? Share stuff and love one another.

Pam Driscoll
Dexter

DAMAGING THE WEB

Last week's (2/7) *EW* had a fabulous article about the connections in the "web" of life by Mary O'Brien (my heroine). A few pages later appeared the Forest Dwellers notification about upcoming aerial spraying of herbicides, the "Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule."

In less than 10 minutes of researching on the net, I found studies that showed that Triclopyr ester — being sprayed near Lorane Elementary school by Reforestation Services — remains for as long as one year on foliage, and that deer and rabbits retained about 10 percent of the chemical they ingested, in their fat. I also learned that Atrazine, being sprayed by Weyerhaeuser near two Mohawk schools, caused tumors and "feminization" of frogs. (By the way, aerial sprays can drift for miles, and the cancer doesn't show up for 20 years or so most of the time)

Most research that establishes "safe levels" of chemicals has been done with increasing doses of the same chemical to produce toxicity. What about synergistic effects with the other 147 chemicals the "average American" now has in her blood? What are the effects of the "chemical soup" in human bodies? Where do these chemicals come from? Our food? Toxic chemicals from burning gas and coal? Our personal care products? The tons of OTC and prescriptions we take? All the plastics in our food?

Mary wrote about Tasmanian devils and flame retardants, polar bears and loons all dying from our poisoning of the planet. If we don't care about these animals, do we also not care about our children?

Chief Seattle is right. "What we do to

the earth, we do to ourselves. All things are connected like the blood of one family." I echo O'Brien's closing question: Can we humans become more than all the damage we have done to the web of life? How?

Debra E. McGee
Eugene

XXXTREEM ROCK

For the record, Jeremy Ohmes' very negative preview (2/14) of the Blue Cheer show at John Henry's Feb. 16 was way off. Blue Cheer fully rocked. They were awesome, as in "inspiring awe." Eugene was blessed to have them. I regret that Ohmes' dumb and vicious write-up of the show probably scared off some people who would have otherwise benefited from the xxxtreem rock. Mr. Ohmes' error did a disservice to the community.

"Maybe live, though, the music will be so loud you won't notice how bad it is," he wrote (among other things). Lame, lame, wrong and lame. Did I mention "lame"?

Please relieve Ohmes of his music writing assignments and allow him to go listen to his trendy fashionable crap instead. I do not want any more of his advice. And please do not modify my spelling of "xxxtreem" in the preceding paragraph. That is the correct spelling in this context.

Honey Vizer
Eugene

PICKED BY LOTTERY

I find myself dismayed by the letters and "news" stories surrounding Eastside and alternative schools in your paper. To say that Eastside's students were "cherry picked" implies a system of selection that does not exist. Potential students are picked by lottery, not selected for their financial portfolios and skin color or cultural background.

Because it is a lottery system, the relatively homogeneous make-up of the students is most likely the result of which people are deciding to put their child's name in the hat in the first place. Many

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