

and my polluting old truck and that it's my duty to give them right-of-way. Which I do, without so much as caressing my horn. This happens so frequently around south Eugene that nowadays I reflexively slow down to a crawl at lights and stop signs even when I have the right-of-way.

Let's keep it real — no flesh-and-blood cyclist is ever going to win in a head-butting contest with a two-ton SUV. So we may as well take responsibility for at least riding with eyes and ears wide open, cell phones off and concentrate on getting to our destination safe and sound.

Mark Young
Eugene

NUDE KUDOS

A big thanks to your staff and reporter Camilla Mortensen for your June 5 front page splashy photo and feature article "Look, Ma! No Tan Lines!" on the wonderful opportunities your area has for family nude recreation.

And thank you so much for taking on this subject without the usual condescending jabs at free spirits like me who understand that being clothes-free in the great outdoors simply means being closer to nature. I emailed your article to my naturist friends around the country and it was a big hit.

I am a Floridian now, but I spent most of my adult life raising a daughter in the Portland area, enjoying clothes-free summer fun on the mighty Columbia River at Rooster Rock State Park and Sauvie Island. In the winter we trekked down to McCredie and Cougar Hot Springs. Until recently I didn't know about the other nude recreation venues your article mentioned. When we visit Oregon this fall we will be sure to head down to the Eugene area for some outdoor fun, knowing we won't have to return to Florida with ugly tan lines.

Glassbar Island looks like a great place for family-friendly nude outdoor adventures, what with their core of diligent volunteers keeping watch daily to make sure everyone of every background has a good time. I checked their website and noticed that they are members of the American Association for Nude Recreation, which makes sure that their member organizations maintain activities that do not include behavior that would be inappropriate for children. I am surprised that your article did not mention them.

While we have some nice nude recreation venues here in Florida, most of the population will never have the healthy attitudes that Oregonians have about the human body. Thank you, *EW*, for letting the rest of the world know how fortunate you really are so more people can visit "naturally."

Debra Kay Hedding
Tampa Area Naturists
Lutz, Fla.

TACTLESS TACTICS

It is great that readers are concerned about the homeless young people on our streets. However, there is much more to this problem and the blame cannot be simply attributed to the parents. We live in a heartless society where meaningful support for many with problems is almost nonexistent.

In today's stressed out world, many parents don't have the skills or emotional strength to deal with kids entering those very tough teenage years. The open campuses where all types of drugs are readily available could not be a worse environment for our kids, especially since neither our community nor the federal government will support funding for sufficient teachers, supervision and counseling.

Those parents who do seek professional help for what is often only normal misbehavior have two main options: They can seek help from a psychiatrist, who is an MD, and nine times out of ten the kid will be diagnosed as "bi-polar" and put on dangerous drugs that often cause permanent damage and can result in periodic bizarre behavior. Or if they seek help from a psychologist where "tough love" is often the preferred treatment because it's quick and easy, the "therapist" will advise them to kick the kid out of the house.

If the parents listen to these hopeless advocates of "tough love" and kick the kid out of the house, the kid soon finds himself trying to survive in a hostile world of drugs, panhandling, petty crimes and learning to be street-wise. Once on the street, the roles of the parents and therapists are replaced by abusive cops who have their own way of dealing with problems. If they keep talking back and won't obey orders, get 'em on the ground, handcuff 'em and Taser the bastards a few times.

Instead of stepping up to this problem

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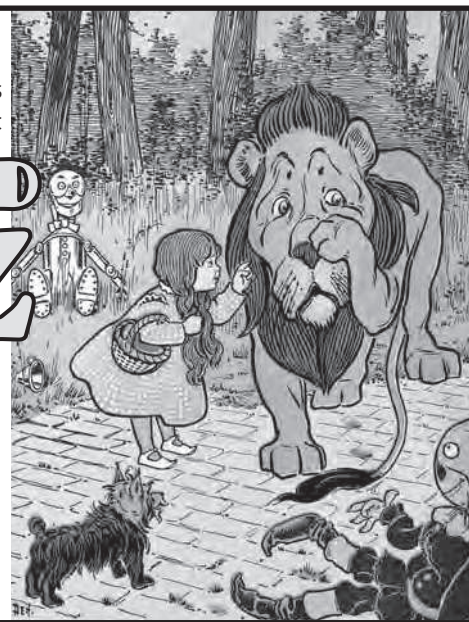
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