

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

kind of cultural capital. Many will end up dead or in jail by the age of 20 — that's not what they wanted to be.

Let's get past the bullshit the Democratic and Republican national conventions exemplify to see what we share in common, in a positive sense.

Sam Porter
Eugene

A NOBLE GOAL

Joe Biden said, "If I could wave a wand, and the Lord said I could solve one problem, I would solve the energy crisis." A noble goal indeed, which finally convinced me to vote for Obama, rather than Nader, to once more make a statement about the condition of American democracy.

But to go a bit beyond that. If I could solve one problem, it would be to let us recognize our animal instincts so we can work around them. These mainly include gaining personal wealth at all cost, and since we can't take it with us, making lots of little copies of ourselves so we can pass it on. These are the underlying causes of our environmental as well as most social problems.

Dan Robinson
Eugene

STOP THE SLURS

Torrey's explanation (R-G, 9/18) doesn't include the apology he should have produced for his unthinkable slur against the mayor. I have never once heard a remark or seen a written word against the police from Kitty Piercy. The truth is she has increased the number of police serving Eugene and has seen that the largest part of the city budget goes to the police department. She does support the Citizen Police Review Board and the independent police auditor. The police union disagrees and wants complete freedom from oversight. Many of us who have witnessed or had friends witness police misbehavior by a few police now appreciate the opportunity to have our complaints heard. It is time for the slurs and untrue television ads to stop!

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

LESSER IS BETTER

To Lynn Porter (9/4): I implore you to reconsider your decision to vote for Ralph Nader. I'm more on your side than you might think. In 2000 I knew very little about George W. Bush or Al Gore, but almost everything either one said sounded like variations on continuation of the status quo. So I "voted my conscience" because I knew what Ralph Nader stood for; he spoke my language. He still does, but I have lived with eight years of utter regret and embarrassment for that choice. So hackneyed to say "lesser of two evils," but it might be significant at his time.

Jim Wood
Eugene

TIMBERLAND PRACTICES

I grew up hearing constant adver-



tisements by "the tree growing people," the Weyerhaeuser Corp. I also grew up to make my home surrounded by commercial timberland, a full half-hour drive from the nearest urban area. The Upper Mohawk Valley, I was sure, would never be like similar foothill valleys in California. After all, "the tree growing people" in a checkerboard with Willamette Industries and the Bureau of Land Management controlled the lion's share of the land surrounding me.

Across the Marcola Road to the north of my holdings was a patch of tree farm owned by Willamette Industries, which clearcut the 80-acre unit 12 years ago. This was hard on the view from the north windows of my house. I could, however, have an experience similar to riding my horse on the high desert just by crossing at Marcola Road. The unit was replanted. Like much of the Mohawk Valley, it is rich timber growing land. Twelve years after looking like the high desert, healthy trees made the way impassible on horseback.

It appears that "the tree growing people" have decided to be instead "the suburbanize timberland people." There is a development underway which intends to put more houses than should be legal on productive timberland in that unit. Tom McCall would call this Californication!

John Anderson
Marcola

RIGHTS FOR RAPISTS

Nice to see that the Republicans are bringing rapists into their "big tent" by giving them their own bill of rights. Under the Republican platform, any rapist will, without fear of infringement, be able to select the mother of his child.

Douglas Hintz
Eugene

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We are currently accepting applications for three at-large positions on a
Community Advisory Committee that will advise the City on the technical
components of the Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment.

This study of residential, industrial and commercial lands is the initial
technical phase of a larger community discussion about
how our community grows over the next 20 years.

The deadline for applications is noon, **Monday, October 13.**
Application forms and a position description are available at
www.eugene-or.gov/ECLA
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Want to learn more?

Contact Jason Dedrick, Associate Planner, at 682-5451



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