

I have read articles about the reasons people are on the streets and forget the percentages. But the circumstances included veterans, addictions to alcohol and drugs, mental illnesses and an expensive illness causing folks to lose their homes and their savings (likely to be more common in these economic times). But to be honest I don't feel I need to know the reason why they are hungry, cold or homeless. The fact that they are is enough for me.

It is not an easy thing for folks to ask for help, so I do what small thing I can do and hope others will help me in my time of need. The old saying still applies: treat

others as you would wish to be treated.

I would encourage those in Cottage Grove and surrounding areas who feel similarly to please speak up. In my view a society that wishes to hide and run off those struggling and less fortunate because it is uncomfortable seeing them is a society I have no wish to be a part of. Where is the love, caring and sharing, Cottage Grove? Please rethink this.

*Tim Boyden
Eugene*

DON'T HAVE A BALL

Obama's gonna be hard-pressed to locate "saved money" to keep his promises.

A first act that would get national and worldwide applause would be to cancel the Inaugural Ball. It's an in-house vanity fair entitlement paid for with taxpayers' money.

Ball it, already.

*Lori Kasprzak
Eugene*

DARK STAINS

It is a changing environment in which we live, whether you are speaking of the ecosystem, the political climate or the industrial food chain. Things are changing, many of them for the better. However, amidst all this potential for a

greener future, some dark stains are being left with seemingly little attention paid to them or care given.

One such stain is the impending move of Emerald Valley Kitchen from here in Eugene to a new site in Portland. In a piece that I read (12/18) right here in *EW*, the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network, ESSN, awarded the title of local Grinch of the Year to Eric Eddings, CEO of Monterey Gourmet Foods and new owner of Emerald Valley Kitchen. The reason for this award was his decision to move Emerald Valley out of Eugene, an action which will cost the jobs of the 25 employees who work in a company that uses locally grown food to make some of the finest organic salsas and bean dips available on any market.

Well, here I am writing to *EW*'s editorial page because ever since the 18th, a letter writing campaign has been going on, all in hopes of showing Eddings the error in his decision, which was based almost solely on increasing his bottom line. Emerald Valley Kitchen is already one of the most profitable and efficient components of Monterey Gourmet Foods, but Eddings was not satisfied with that profit margin and the impending move seems a done deal. That does not have to be the case, though, because as people have shown in the past, enough public outcry can change even things that seem set in stone. I hope that is the case with Emerald Valley and the 25 jobs that are at stake right here in Eugene.

*Michael Hester
Eugene*

KIDS HAVE PRIORITY

I am a mother and a regular LTD patron. I have a request of my fellow riders: Please get up and move for those of us who have children. We should have priority just like disabled people. It's unsafe for our children to be standing while the bus is in motion. If we have a car seat and stroller, where are we suppose to put them when there are no seats available to us?

Perhaps LTD could post signs to this effect.

*Destiny Coates
Eugene*

TIME'S RUNNING OUT

To have every person living on Earth catch up to the level of consumption of most Americans, it would require several times the current level of resource use. That means several times more oil, water, food and many other resources we rely upon.

As a species, we are already struggling to find enough resources to meet our current demand, yet we're trying to grow even bigger.

Where do we expect to find 3 or 4 times more clean water, oil, trees, fish, farm land and all the other resources we use to meet our growing human needs? What about three times the pollution and loss of other species — how long can that go on before it backfires?

Our current economic system's great for a small percentage of people (the most competitive ones) for the short-term, but can't go on much longer — there's not nearly enough Earthly resources to meet

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