

A TALE OF CONTAMINATION

I moved to Eugene about a year ago. I used to live in Santa Cruz, Calif., in a beautiful condo 10 minutes from the beach. Every night I would listen to the sea lions barking and give thanks for the incredibly clean ocean air. I owned my own lucrative business.

About a year ago, the California Department of Agriculture (CDA) decided to use a pesticide called Checkmate to fumigate the entire Monterey Bay area to "eradicate" the light brown apple moth. This included the city of Santa Cruz. Six hundred people became ill; my friends had the "flu" for months; I lost the ability to walk, speak and sleep. I lost every stitch of clothing, my home and my business, as it had all been contaminated with what I was assured over and over again by the CDA was a harmless mixture of moth pheromone and other inactive ingredients.

After an emergency move to Eugene. I thought I had made it to safety until I was informed a few weeks ago that the Oregon Department of Agriculture is planning a similar spray with Btk on April 28. I don't have the resources to move again this time. I don't know that my health can take another hit, as I have been slowly recovering over this past year. I don't know that I believed the ODA representative Barry Bai when he assured me over and over how safe Btk was when I spoke to him over the phone. I don't want to continue being a lab rat for the ODA.

If anyone out there feels the same, please contact the ODA and ask them to wait on the plan to spray until we can be positive of our safety or there is a safety net in place in case we become ill after the spray, i.e. medical care, chemical clean-up, lost wages compensation, etc. Also contact www.oregontoxics.org or www.pesticide.org to see how we can come together to take care of the situation to the benefit of everyone.

Anne Forster
Eugene

JUST SILLY

While reading Patty Luniewski's letter deploring Eugene's one-way streets as archaic, I was struck by two things. First, she mentions that such a system makes it "harder for pedestrians and children." Harder to do what? Last time I checked, the sidewalks of Eugene aren't one-way, and it's much easier to come to a crosswalk and

only have to worry about cars approaching from one direction.

Second, the idea that having a downtown area dominated by one-way streets is somehow de-charming, well that's just plain silly. I grew up in Philadelphia, right downtown, and most of our streets were (and still are) one-way. Whenever I would take the train up to New York and visit Manhattan I was again surrounded by one-way streets. Perhaps if I had driven the 90 miles to New York City and been stuck in a car all day, I would've been a little put off by all those one-way streets, but I believe Luniewski has missed the main point: The best way to get around in a city is to walk.

The idea that all these one-way streets are frustrating is only evident if you're in a vehicle. Is it really charming to be able to race around a city in your car, looking for parking spots? No. My family didn't have a car the entire time I lived in Philadelphia. Why not? Because a city is meant to be walked, not driven. The charm of a city comes from its people, its architecture and its restaurants. The best way to appreciate all of these facets is to take them in slowly, charmingly, strolling through neighborhoods.

Matt Emrich
Cottage Grove

BAND TOGETHER

Thanks for the cover story in *EW* (3/12) about the local music scene. It was inspirational. I agree, we need to stick together as a scene and help each other out. I think every band in this town needs to band together and help each other out instead of being so competitive. After all, we aren't LA. That's why I moved here from SoCal. There is just something in the air. Thank you for inspiring us!

Sonny McNeillie
Sonny and the Moonlighters

YUMMY WILD BOAR

Reading Camilla Mortensen's Feb. 5 cover story "Hog Wild," one might get an impression that neither logging equipment nor the impact of millions of humans is the biggest threat to rural Oregon and the rest of the country. No, it's the wild pig. Looks like they might soon make the National Security list and we will have to call another war on those new terrorists, just like the ones that we have on drugs and al-Qaida. Would never call it on parasitic bankers on Wall



Street although they and not bin Laden have brought this country to its knees.

Here in North America, we are way beyond the native species paradigm and the feral pigs are by no means an exception.

Wild pigs have roamed Europe's forests and fields for thousands of years and somehow they have not managed to wallow and snorkle the continent into oblivion. To the contrary, in many instances they are strictly protected. Wild boar meat is a very sought after, tasty and healthy food alternative to factory farms. But obviously that would be heresy for lobbyists of the meat industry. They are always appropriate-to-the-situation scientific experts of any field and, with the help of articles like "Hog Wild," they're turning people's brains into water.

Adam Uminski
Noti

TAKE BACK BAILOUTS

To those still upset about the \$700 billion taxpayer bailout of U.S. banks: it's not too late to do something about it.

\$214 million of our taxes have gone to "bail out" Umpqua Bank — whose executives admitted they didn't need the money but would take it to "increase our footprint" bringing us Umpqua's latest round of "hip" advertising.

The ads (and cute tree logo) suggest we

"save paper." Ironically, Umpqua's chairman of the board is none other than Allyn Ford, owner of Roseburg Forest Products and the most powerful timber baron in Oregon. Ford's primitive style of slash-and-spray (de) forestry is to blame for horizon-to-horizon clearcuts, poisoned families, polluted drinking water, landslides, dead salmon and tons of global warming gases. Over the past decade, Ford has ignored requests to adopt responsible forestry practices to set a new model for Oregon's backward timber industry.

It's clear we need to speak to Ford in a language he understands: cold hard cash. Please encourage friends and family — and businesses you shop at or work for — to send Allyn Ford a message with your money by withdrawing all accounts from (St)Umpqua Bank. \$214 million worth sounds like a nice round number to me.

Josh Schlossberg
Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates
Eugene

AN ABOMINATION

Don Giovanni? Frankenstein. I remember my first experience of this opera. It was magical to say the least. So it's very sad to see what stage director Fabrizio Melano has done with this masterpiece.

Eugene Opera's tight budget, along with Melano's "interesting idea," has created

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