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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

with claims about needs for "forest thinning" to prevent wildfires, but there is no evidence supporting this claim, and thinning may actually increase fire danger by increasing wind speed. If we increase the total amount of electricity available to Eugene, we would simply be continuing to encourage wasteful and destructive economic arrangements, geared toward vast over-consumption by the wealthy.

It's high time we organize ballot initiatives to cap both commercial and household electricity consumption in Eugene, so we don't have a small percentage of citizens consuming ridiculous amounts of electricity. Our hydroelectric capacity is more than enough to provide for our electricity "needs."

Clay Grantham
Eugene



NUCLEAR POTENTIAL

Four out of the past five recessions followed oil shocks, and the International Energy Agency now warns of \$200-per-barrel oil; a global depression may follow. The U.S. needs a

radically different energy policy to address volatile oil and gas prices, global warming and a shrinking economy — and fast.

Most purported solutions are either too small to matter or have a fatal flaw. Hydroelectric power is low-cost but cannot be expanded. Geothermal power is only available in a few spots and likewise cannot be expanded. Biomass as currently practiced (ethanol or soybean diesel) produces such small gains in net-energy that no amount of farmland could contribute significantly to reducing fossil fuel consumption.

The average capacity factor for photovoltaic solar in the U.S. is 14 percent; wind, 27 percent. The fatal flaw is that battery technology is not sufficient to store sporadic and unreliable power coming in off the grid for when it isn't sunny or windy. And finally, while the world still has a lot of coal, we have yet to demonstrate large-scale, long-term storage of carbon dioxide.

As argued in Tom Blees's book *Prescription for the Planet*, one solution exists: nuclear fission. Integral Fast Reactors are 100 to 300 times as fuel efficient and can even use existing energy in nuclear waste as fuel. The world desperately needs a massive source of reliable, long-lasting, low-pollution energy. And nuclear power may be all that stands between civilization and its alternatives.

Zachary Moitoza
Eugene

THREATENING COP

While riding my bicycle northbound on Olive Street about a half block from 5th Avenue I was dangerously passed on the left by a PT Cruiser which then proceeded to turn right into the Post Office loading dock area. I thought this to be strange because postal workers don't drive so dangerously.

The man got out to unload plastic mail crates, and I proceeded to inform him that passing me on the left was illegal because I am considered a vehicle when there is no bicycle lane with cars parked to my right.

He proceeded to yell at me, saying that it was not the law. I then said, "Ask a cop, and he will tell you it is against the law."

He then loudly stated, "I am a cop," and, "I should get your name and address so I could come to your house." I took him seriously. Perhaps he was just a security guard or perhaps a police officer from outside Eugene?

I nevertheless was shocked to hear him threaten me by stating he would appear at my home.

Should I fear that any police officer can show up at my doorstep at any hour

Anne Marie Levis for 4J School Board!



"I promise to always put
the interests of children
and education first."

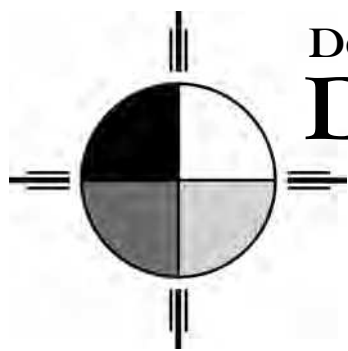
- Anne Marie Levis



As an active community member, responsible business owner and dedicated mother, Anne Marie's experience makes her the best choice for Eugene 4J school board. She is endorsed by: Susan Castillo, Kitty Piercy, EEA Union, the 4JA Association, David Piercy, and several other 4J Board Members. For more information visit: ElectAnneMarieLevis.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Anne Marie Levis for 4J School Board.

**Be sure to vote
by May 19th!**



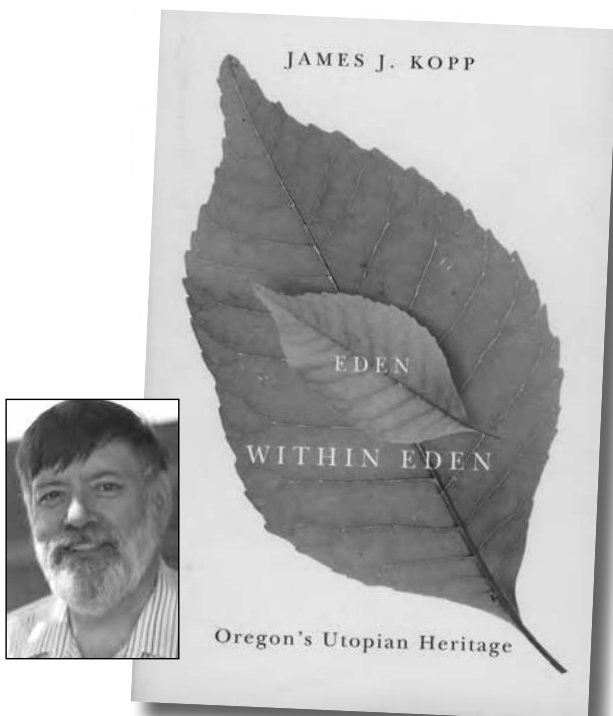
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