

NATURAL DEVELOPMENT

There has been much discussion about the so-called pits downtown, and a search for developers and eventual tenants continues. But one of the pits has in fact already secured the best “developer” I know — Mother Nature — and a steady stream of new tenants is quickly filling the available spaces.

In the pit nearest the southwest corner of Willamette and Broadway, young cottonwoods have already leafed out, and myriad other plants await their turns to delight passersby and pollinators alike.

I’ve watched this site for the past few years and simply marvel at what I see. In addition to the cottonwoods, the seeds of other trees — including incense cedar and big-leaf maple — have arrived and germinated. In the southwest corner of the lot, just inside the ugly chain-link fence, Oregon’s lovely state flower, the Oregon grape, now blossoms. The biggest show will come later this spring, as coreopsis, California poppy, birds-foot trefoil, pearly everlasting and many more flowers bring color and life back to this once-barren site.

Instead of screening from view this wondrous place, why not encourage passersby to appreciate and learn from what is happening? A sign could be erected that explains how “ecological succession” works and identifies the predominant plants, avian visitors and so forth.

I realize that this site will someday be “developed” in a more conventional fashion — probably with a big, lifeless brick and

steel building. In the meantime, let’s enjoy it for the fascinating little nature preserve that it has become all on its own.

*Whitey Lueck
Eugene*

INCONVENIENT JOKE

Regarding the city’s or anyone else’s stance on global warming (news story, 5/21), the actual inconvenient truth is even if you stopped all anthropogenic production of greenhouse gases immediately, it would have absolutely no effect on planetary climate trends. Zero, zilch, nada.

So while you religious zealots in the house of “Mother Earth” (what a joke, the planet doesn’t give a rat’s ass about you) and your lawyers continue to pretend to save the world (and make lawyer money), the weather is still gonna be the weather. And there’s not a damn thing you can do about it. Have a nice day, you monkeys!

And by the way, you can’t fight “The Man” when you are “The Man.” Dig it, man?

*Scott Zeppa
Springfield*

HARD TO BE A COP

In response to “EPD Cowards” (letters, 5/14): Are you serious? You are mistaken when you write that “Eugene is about the easiest place in the world to be a cop.” I would imagine that the easiest place would be a community with low crime (property and physical), low drug-related issues and a police department that is actually supported by its community. Eugene might just be one



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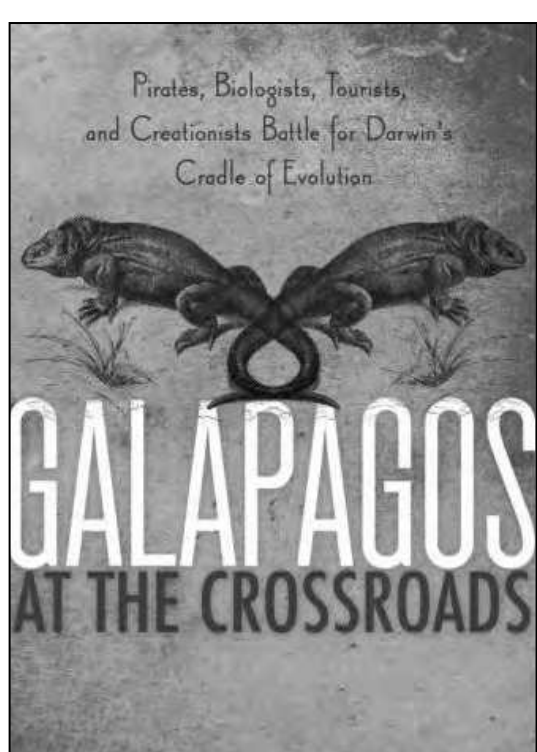
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