

relative number.) It's presently at about 387 ppm. Getting down to 350 ppm, a little over the pre-industrial level, is thought to mean we'd no longer have to worry about global warming. That doesn't mean ppm of "carbon" as often implied, which would most likely mean soot. Burning (combining oxygen with) 12 tons of carbon produces 44 tons of CO₂. We often hear statements about millions of tons of CO₂ going into the atmosphere, but not what that means in terms of CO₂ ppm. We also don't hear what CO₂ ppm mean in terms of global heating, but that's more complicated.

Three hundred fifty ppm of CO₂ is the most distant possible climate goal. By choosing a distant goal, we can put off actually doing anything right away. The recession has apparently reduced our rate of CO₂ emissions, maybe temporarily, but we should still be much more concerned about when CO₂ ppm will stop increasing. Since rising temperatures cause increases in natural production of CO₂, and methane, we may have passed the "tipping point" where we can reduce the level. It may continue to rise at least through this century and may never come back to what we consider normal.

Dan Robinson
Eugene

THE BIG PICTURE

Americans have lived very comfortable lives. Health insurance, automobiles and homes have all been taken for granted. Being 17 and just recently employed, my experience in the world is rather limited, but that only adds to the confusion. People have been living poor and under the poverty line since the beginning of any monetary organization, and now the world has plunged into a recession.

Now I understand that as Americans we don't see the poverty that rampages across the two largest continents in the world (as well as a few places in between) as a problem, but I'm a little tired of hearing the complaints, seeing that we haven't done much but turn up our noses and spend frivolously. Is this recession not just a little bit of karma? I can only hope that the gap keeps shrinking because maybe when were all at level zero together we can truly try to start over again with more than just profit gain feeding our efforts.

Patrick Glang
Eugene

DOG PARK NOT FOR KIDS

They are called "dog" parks for a reason. While I feel sorry for the entire circumstance Renee Hart experienced that led her to form a petition for a small dog park (news briefs, 10/8), this story brings up another major issue at local Eugene dog parks: small children in the parks.

Parents may mean well bringing both their children and dogs to the park for a family activity, but it's important for dog owners and parents to be aware that a dog park is *not* a playground for young children. While it may be difficult to imagine anything as horrific as what occurred to Lola occurring to a child, it very well could have been (and thankfully wasn't) Hart's 4-year-old mauled instead.

As the owner of a jovial 70-pound black lab, I've seen several examples of small children getting sideswiped or knocked over by dogs on accident. I've also seen small children chasing frightened dogs unfamiliar with the play of young children or petting animals that they cannot be sure are entirely friendly. I've also seen (small) dogs nip at children in the parks and generally distract parents from controlling their own dogs. My dog was attacked several years ago by another dog that was trying to protect his small family member, to whom my dog apparently roamed too close. That attack caused a trip to the emergency vet and 40 stitches.

Please keep small people out of dog parks, regardless of the size of canine allowed inside. While it would be wonderful to assume that all dogs in parks are in accordance with the ordinances posted, the mastiff was simply one instance of a dog owner who may not have fully recognized the ways in which any given dog will respond to different stimuli.

Karin Timmermans
Eugene

STOP BURNING STUFF

In response to the Oct. 15 letter "Save Your Energy," the letter made two distinct points;

Photovoltaic power uses fossil fuels and precious metals and is not repairable or recyclable. The usage of biomass, gasification, solar thermal and wind are realistic replacements for fossil fuels.

Anyone who has looked into what it means to go to green energy understands two basic concepts: We have to stop

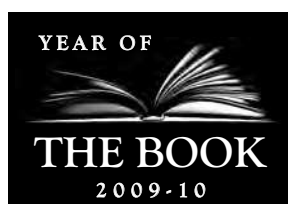
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November 6-21, 2009

"Big River," musical, Robinson Theatre. Tickets: EMU, (541) 346-4363 or tickets.uoregon.edu/ut

November 12, 2009—Eugene
November 13, 2009—Portland

"Digitize, Democratize: Google, Libraries, and the Future of Books," lecture, Robert Darnton, Professor of History and Director of the Harvard University Library. Eugene: 7:30 p.m., 175 Knight Law Center. Portland: 5:30 p.m., UO in Portland. Sponsor: OHC Kritikos Lectureship, (541) 346-3934

November 16, 2009

"Words Worth Paying For? Publishing in the Age of Electronic Readers," panel, 6 p.m., UO in Portland. Sponsor: Journalism and Communication, (541) 346-5848

December 1, 2009

"Futura," staged reading of a new play by Jordan Harrison that imagines a world where all libraries have been digitized and no print culture remains (or, so the government thinks...), 7 p.m., Knight Library Browsing Room. Discussion with the playwright to follow. Sponsor: Theatre Arts, (541) 346-1998 or sarafree@uoregon.edu

December 4, 2009

"Open Access to Knowledge and the Intellectual Properties of Learning," lecture, John Willinsky, Professor of Education, Stanford University and Founder of the Public Knowledge Project, 3 p.m., Knight Library Browsing Room. Sponsor: Knight Library, jqi@uoregon.edu



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