

TIME FOR LIFE BOATS

Expanding the urban growth boundary? Planning for population growth? How about planning for the collapse of stable weather patterns, stable predictable precipitation, snow pack, the Cascade glacier melt? How about planning for the end of cheap petroleum and transportation of 95 percent of the food consumed in Lane County?

If we plan for these things and for some reason they miraculously don't happen (against all the best science now available), then we'll have cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner and safer food, cleaner rivers, more livable and resilient communities, locally supported farmers and closer neighbors. This also prepares us for a super earthquake.

Are you as our mayors, commissioners and city councilors going to personally feed an extra million people who move to the Willamette Valley as our climate and petroleum-based civilization collapses? Or will you just have your kids and grandkids deal with that because you are hoping you won't be around to see it happen?

We are rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic at best! It is long past due to start building the life boats.

If we can't raise enough food in Oregon to feed the population here, people in overcrowded and ill-prepared communities will starve.

Shannon Wilson
Eugene

LET THEM ALL IN

In light of all the recent talk of illegal immigration, I feel compelled to share my opinion. I am an immigrant and proud to be one. Since I was 16, I've worked, paid taxes and have never been arrested. I come from a working class (immigrant) family that contributes to its community. That's why all this anti-immigrant rhetoric angers me.

So some people come here illegally.

What's the big deal? Hello? Does anyone remember that this country was founded by illegal immigrants? Why is that a bunch of Europeans stole it and now are greedy about sharing? It's not like the U.S. is overpopulated. It's not like the "illegals" are stealing prime jobs from college graduates. They're coming here for the same exact reason your great-great-great-grandparents did: to provide a better life for their families. Shame on you for criticizing them! I mean, seriously, does it affect *your* life that much?

Let them in. I say, forget papers; open the flood gates and let everyone in! America is supposed to be the great melting pot, the land of opportunity. I wasn't aware that was limited to white people.

I, for one, turn very brown in the summer, and I'll be damned if some cop asks to see my identification on account of my tan! That's not the America to which I immigrated!

Eve Cienfuegos
Eugene

RETURN TO NUDIE ROCK

As an appreciator of your various past articles on the area's nude/clothing-optional beaches, I'd like to offer some updating information. Eugene's "other" full river-frontal sunnin'/swimmin' hole — Nudie Rock Beach — seems to have fallen out of general public awareness and into relative disuse except by a small and timid number of "nudies" and a larger number of "textiles." This came about after a sheriff's "mini-crack-down" two or three summers ago when a few warnings and subsequent citations were issued, during an unusually heavy period of McKenzie River use by rafters, boaters and tubers. Some few of the apparently more offendable passers-by had reportedly complained. This happened in spite of the fact that Nudie Rock has been in continual clothing-optional use since at least as far back as the 1960s (as has been attested by various reliable recollections),

and probably further.

Since that one anomalous summer, the water deputies have not made any further issue of the few remaining brave souls' public nudity. They have in fact told the people at the beach that it was only because of the ad hoc public pressure that they made any issue at all, and that they have no intention to activate enforcement in the future (besides, it is probable that their "enforcement" was of dubious legality in the first place because of the long-standing no-clothing precedent and could have been effectively challenged).

I am writing to encourage any and all "textile shedders" to repopulate Nudie Rock because in recent summers we, the few, the brave, have felt outnumbered by the clothed and a bit over-"exposed." Let's rebuff this atmosphere of unnecessary timidity and vulnerability and re-"buff" Nudie Rock Beach!

Park on McKenzie View Drive one mile upriver (east) from Coburg Road; go down steep path between two large rocks at exact top of hill; don't annoy neighbors on uphill side of road, please!

Richard Reitz
Pleasant Hill

ABOVE THE LAW

Pam Driscoll in her letter "Steeped In Oil" (6/3) is spot on when she asks, "What will it take to wake people up?" Yes, "the less gasoline used, the fewer oil spills." Those responsible for the Gulf disaster act with impunity throughout the world, and the Niger Delta dwarfs our current quagmire. In Nigeria, oil companies have acted with such impunity and recklessness that much of the region has been devastated by leaks. In fact, more oil is spilled from the delta's network of terminals, pipes, pumping stations and oil platforms every year than has been lost in the Gulf of Mexico!

BP has been blocking progressive legislation both in the U.S. and in Nigeria, and in both places they have been living

above the law. BP is clearly a danger to the planet and must be brought before the international court of justice. And it is way beyond time for all of us to assess our lifestyle choices.

Déjà vu: Check out the history of the Gulf of Mexico Ixtoc rig that erupted in the middle of the night on June 13, 1979, the same night of a pipeline spill in Alaska. It's not just the disaster itself that should sound familiar to us, but also the techniques that they were using at the time to try to contain the spill. By the way, two relief wells eventually ended that spill, and currently we will need to wait until August for that result!

Some have defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Christopher Michaels
Eugene

SHARING THE SIDEWALK

As a civil libertarian, I appreciate the efforts of local activists to safeguard the rights of our community members, including those who hang out downtown. There is danger of arbitrary and unfair enforcement of the new "do not block" zones around the downtown LTD station in Eugene. If the zones are found to be unconstitutional, they cannot stay. But as a matter of public policy, they are a great compromise. They provide room for a public right-of-way while maintaining ample space on the sidewalk outside the zone in which to converse, hang out and just "be."

Because of a visual disability, I rely on the bus for transportation. I access downtown businesses daily through the LTD station, accompanied by my small daughter and infant son. In recent months, we have found it difficult and unsafe to push through the crowds of people hanging out on the sidewalks around the station. Smokers gesticulate with lit cigarettes, not seeing my kids' faces nearby. I have to steer the stroller around unsteady drinkers,

NOTES from THE RIVERSIDE BY MARK HARRIS

In Remembrance

The struggle continues on many fronts

I write this on a patriotic holiday once reserved for Union Civil War veterans, later expanded to American vets of all wars, though in Virginia they extend it to Confederate dead. At Native powwows the veterans bring the colors in on grand entry, honoring the fallen who died defending their ancestral homeland, those Natives who fought defending the country that took their ancestral homeland, those indigenous who fought to defend their homelands against America and those who live on, preserving a free country for those yet to be born. While I may not agree with their reasoning, I can honor the concept of laying down your life in service to a higher purpose and memorializing that.

I am a maroon veteran of a different sort of war, a liberation struggle for the soul, and I mean this in the African sense, not the theological. I



remember some of the fallen who died before their time, particularly those who are not generally remembered in these patriotic celebrations because they neither bore arms, nor wore uniforms.

In the wars on poverty, drugs or terrorism, the first casualty is often truth. A war on poverty actually increases the numbers of the poor. A war on drugs actually increases addictions of all kinds. Militarism is the addiction where if you have a heartbeat, you are a target, even if you wear a uniform. Military training creates a condition where it makes it easier to kill because you sever your connection to your soul's human compassion even for yourself or loved ones. Devotion to duty doesn't fill this hole. Patriotism doesn't fill this hole. Placing flags on graves and then rushing to buy more things before the long weekend is over doesn't fill this hole.

The Lieutenant, as I called him, claimed to be a vet; I believed him. You could see the ravages of the wars (poverty, drugs, terrorism) in his face. His face told a story about what happens when you place human beings under conditions where they regularly see or do things that assault humanity. Where the only way they are trained to deal with it is suppress it addictively. A number of vets and officers, honorably and dishonorably discharged, have been students of mine, many training to be addictions workers. All of them said that the military essentially tolerates substance abuse and addiction as long as you perform your duties. If you don't perform or if you mouth off to the wrong person as The Lieutenant did: dishonorable discharge without treatment — ineligible for benefits because of that dishonorable discharge. And even if you have an honorable discharge and can reasonably say your addiction was service related, the official policy is to ignore it. I gave him a mission: to be able to record the stories in faces of homeless people through his art, thus creating a form of peace. The Lieutenant died violently in our town, a casualty of war. The struggle continues.

Mark Harris is an instructor and substance abuse prevention coordinator at LCC.