

WE ARE OMNIVORES

Joshua Welch (Viewpoint, 7/8) references a report issued by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) International Panel of Sustainable Resource Management. The report does not advocate a switch to a vegan diet as Welch states. In fact, the word "vegan" does not even appear in the report. If you read Welch's editorial carefully, you will come to understand that his primary motivation in advocating veganism does not stem from a concern for the environment so much as his concern for animals as sentient beings.

Homo sapiens have been consuming meat for thousands of years without detrimental impact to the environment until the last few hundred years. People are not going to quit eating meat. The solution to eliminating "factory farms" is to advocate for responsible, environmentally friendly methods of raising these animals. There are vast areas of land that are not fertile enough, without unsustainable chemical or irrigation inputs, for raising crops. This land is best suited to raising animals. When properly managed, the land can actually be improved for wildlife at the same time it is being used for grazing livestock.

Aaron Lieberman
Cottage Grove

IT'S JUST NOT OK

Thank you for making my point for me in your article "The Dispossessed" (7/1). Yes, there are resources available for the homeless; whether or not they elect to access them is up to their discretion. That said, I have very little sympathy for homeless people. Young children who have to live out of vans and motels, yes, that is awful. Perhaps worthless people ought to not breed if they cannot care for their offspring. Seriously, you can't get a job at a fast food joint or a call center and rent some lame apartment? It really is that easy. Are you that big of a douche that no one will let you stay at their house until you get back on your feet?

Homelessness is a very unfortunate condition, and I do feel sad for those who are temporarily out of a place to live. Chronic homelessness is a choice, unless you are a child. Those people are not willing to help themselves. For whatever reason, our city seems to think that it's OK to be homeless, to be a train-hopper, to be a panhandler. Well, it's not. I was raised to believe it is cool to have a nice place to live, even if it means having to work a crappy job. So the next time someone spare changes you, direct them towards White Bird, Looking Glass or the Employment Department.

Eve Cienfuegos
Eugene

NOT SO SHARP

Check out your minds, baby boomers; you all aren't as sharp as you used to be. Accept it, you voted in the Bush dynasty. Crosswalks are for pedestrians, slow down, *read the menu*, read the clear print on the sign, look at what other lucid people are doing and figure out how not to look like a daft old goat or harridan, whichever the case may be. What would your grandparents have done? Whatever it was, they would have done it with grace and class unknown to this day and locale?

Embrace the grace of your upbringing and think before you ask a question that makes everyone a little astonished at your generation's autumn coming on so fast.

My generation has a stack of troubles and faults, and it isn't getting easier cleaning up your collective spittle — and your trend toward conservative voting. You were once cool and young; now look to models of cool old folks and be it, calm down, slow down, take your time. As Hopeton Lewis said, have faith in our generation, and don't hit us with your cars, dotards!

Donovan Worland
Eugene

IMBEDDED TRUTH

We are witnessing a deep division between reason and belief. For thousands of years, this separation of reason from belief has created mistrust. It is vastly important, in my view, to put the two back together under one name, and that name is trust. When we choose to trust, then all personal truths can be shared — as they should be. To me, truths are the "seeds" that each of us carries away from the powerful events of our lives. We imbed them in our stories and hold them as sacred.

One of the most powerful events of my life came during a mid-day walk on a hot July day just after witnessing the birth of my lovely daughter Mia! I felt the surging power of life and love that day, and I will never forget it. In honor of my daughter's 25th birthday, I have this one last thought to share: Your truths are different from mine, but, when they are shared in an atmosphere of trust, all truths grow corn. Let's feed the children well.

Wade Guthrie, D.C.
Eugene

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