

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

as companions/pets for rational, socially responsible owners.

At the risk of exposing another type of irrational fear, I would suggest that the roots of the pit bulls' unfair image are not unlike those irrational fears expressed by vocal anti-gun folks. My firearm was designed and built to protect me and my family from those who do us bodily harm. It is only as dangerous and deadly as I cause it to be. It has no influence over me. It is inanimate and will not function without direct action on my part.

I would challenge *EW* to acknowledge that, just as the pit bull is an innocent, harmless companion — unless taught and directed otherwise by its owner — the firearm is a harmless tool unless misused or negligently managed by its owner. Those who would ban the ownership of either promote irrational fear within our society.

Stephen Roberts  
Eugene

### WE NEED EMX

I hope all the good, decent people in Eugene will join me in boycotting every business with an anti-transit sign posted on West 11th. We need EmX transit in West Eugene and these clowns want to stop it.

Ralph Wombat  
Eugene

### GREAT EXPECTATIONS

I remember when success was beating the Beavers and the Huskies. And then success became having a winning season.

And then it became going to a bowl game. Then it was *winning* a bowl game. Then it was getting to the Rose Bowl.

Then it was finishing in the top 25. Then it was finishing in the top 10. Then it was getting to a BCS Bowl game. Now it is winning the national championship.

Every time our expectations were raised there were Monday morning quarterbacks on every corner ripping Brooks or Bellotti apart for their decisions when those expectations weren't met. I want to apologize to Chip and staff in advance for the criticism they are already getting from all those experts in our fair city who are clearly much better college football coaches than they will ever be.

Kevin O'Brien  
Eugene

### LOST DOGS REDEEMED

As the owner of a sweet loving pit bull I am deeply saddened when I hear stories about dogs that have killed or harmed people or other animals. These are real tragedies but the fact is any dog with the physical ability to maim or kill can be a threat — Dobermans, Rottweilers, chows are all breeds that have records similar to pit bulls when it comes to vicious attacks.

But rather than refute misleading statistics about which dogs are the most violent I want to draw attention to the story of the abused and neglected pit bulls kept for dog fighting by former NFL player Michael Vick. Author Jim Gorant tells their amazing story in *Lost Dogs; Michael Vick's Dogs and their Tale of Rescue and Redemption*. Of the 51 dogs rescued from Vick's property 47 of them were

rehabilitated. In spite of the terrible abuse they suffered, these dogs have proven themselves loving gentle companions to those who have adopted them. Their story shows this breed is capable of exhibiting excellent temperament under extreme circumstances. It also reinforces the fact that all dogs not matter what the breed, are domestic animals that rely on people to breed, raise and handle them in a responsible manner.

As a human society that has domesticated the Canine, we all share the responsibility to ensure they interact with others in a safe manner no matter the breed.

Claire Syrett  
Eugene

### SOME DIVERSITY

W. Shane Kiser's utopian vision (Letters, 1/6) that Eugene residents "synchronize" around "diversity" is pretty limited: "We do that on Ducks' day or for that matter the whole year round ... If we can agree on the Ducks, then why not our celebrations and our diverse choices of worship?"

Kiser should try wearing an OSU shirt in Eugene, especially in the fall, and the week before the Civil War, before thinking that this city celebrates "diversity" in all things. I will say though, that despite all the dirty looks and muttered insults I've received, I've also seen a lot of discrete smiles and "thumbs ups" from OSU alums who live here but have to hide their sports loyalties. I guess it's news to some, but not everyone worships at the House of Knight.

Chuck Kleinhans  
Eugene

### FOREST CARBON SINK

I cannot understand the accounting system by which burning wood is counted as a way to reduce global warming.

When plants die, photosynthesis stops. When a forest is cut and the plant material is burned or decays, carbon begins to be returned to the atmosphere. Rapid deforestation has contributed to the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere over the past 200 years. It's probably 20 to 30 percent of the human contribution to the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

When a forest is replanted after logging, CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere by regrowth of the forest is rapid, then eventually it is balanced by respiration, but the quantity that has been removed remains in the regrown forest, not in the atmosphere. Thus, existence of a living forest is a carbon sink. Cutting down that forest releases the stored carbon back to the atmosphere.

Burning wood increases global warming by increasing the carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere. This is true whether we burn whole logs or limbs and small trees. If we didn't remove these, they would become fertilizer and soil conditioner for the next generation of trees. If we remove them, we will have unhealthy, stunted forests, or no forests. If all you care about is where your next million dollars is coming from, you will destroy the forest. If you care where the future forests will come from, you will protect the forest.

Ann Tattersall  
Eugene

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**FRI 5pm-9pm**  
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**Good Earth**  
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**show**

Seminars &  
Event Details: EugeneHomeShow.com

**Rethinking Scale - Appropriate Home Design**  
Todd Miller AIA, LEED AP, Principal, Studio-E Architecture  
Friday 7:30pm

**Passive House Construction Achieves Net-Zero Energy**  
Jan Fillingier AIA, LEED AP, Principal, Studio-E Architecture  
Win Swafford, Ecobuilding Collaborative of OR  
Certified Passive House Consultants  
Saturday 12noon

**Who Needs an Architect? Residential & Commercial**  
Nir Pearson AIA, LEED AP  
Nir Pearson, Architect  
Saturday 3pm

**sustain + connect + inspire**  
Richard Shugar AIA, LEED AP, Principal  
2form Architecture  
Sunday 12noon

**Lifestyle of the Simple and Sustainable**  
William Randall, Architect  
LEED AP, CSBA,  
Senior Principal  
Arbor South Architecture  
Sunday 2pm