

we stop blowing up peoples' homes with flying robots. We could even launch a new WPA, provide jobs, build green energy infrastructure, truly reduce CO2 emissions, and stimulate the entire economy.

Are these ideas too utopian, too impractical, or too much to expect right now? Then it's time for something bigger. It's likely already begun in Wisconsin.

Todd D. Johnson
Eugene

GROW UP

I found Kathryn Mason's opinions as stated in her letter Feb. 17 to be offensive. I take issue with her statement that declared the cover Feb. 10 to be "obscene by any standards" — not by my standards, nor by the dozen or so individuals unfamiliar to me whom I quizzed about the cover. I found no one who objected. I also found her thinly veiled threats of loss of advertisers and the folding of the publications to be unacceptable. The whole letter read like a childish temper tantrum. I say kudos to *EW* for a tasteful representation of the human form and an interesting article. I view *EW*'s advertisers as open and supportive of diverse opinions, and I will continue to support them with my business. I would say to Ms. Mason, "Grow up!"

Sandra Legaard
Springfield

JOBS TO CHINA

At a time when the main political focus is on jobs, jobs, jobs, I would like to talk about where all the jobs went, and why. Why is everything we use made in China, when millions of Americans are out of work? Because all the famous "American" corporations, the backbone of the American economy (i.e. stock market) have made an end run around all the human rights laws, labor standards, and environmental protections that democracy has made possible here, by moving millions of once-American jobs to (often unrepentantly) undemocratic countries like China. In the process, they have increased their personal profits tenfold, while flooding the country (and its landfills) with cheap, low quality junk, designed to break and be thrown away. What is very good for China and huge corporations is very bad for American workers, democracy, and the planet.

And thanks to the Supreme Court, the same corporations who have bypassed all that democracy has accomplished for We the People, have now gained virtually unlimited, anonymous power to influence our "democratic" elections, flooding the airwaves with carefully devious misinformation.

Multinational corporations are the enemy of real democracy; global capitalism is the engine of disaster!

P.S. Can anyone tell me why there aren't hundreds of banking executives in jail right now? Instead they're back to record bonuses and fraudulent behavior. And We the People, in our tens of millions, continue to do ... nothing?

Rick Moser
Eugene

HARMFUL ALTERNATIVE

Tar sands oil contains more harmful chemicals than conventional crude, including five to 10 times as much sulfur, and more chloride salts. Both substances can weaken

pipelines and make them more likely to break during a pressure spike.

Kelly Rasmussen
Junction City

WTF?

The *Weekly* began to cover a story that sounds like high profile money laundering ("Pat Kilkenney Invested in Courtside?" 1/6) in the controversial Walnut Station mixed-use development area. Why is the *Weekly* failing to follow up on that important story? The *Weekly* is now promoting instead of reporting on proposed EmX expansions. Why the change?

The *Emerald* now reports UO is selling legacy arena parking garage spots for one million dollars each.

In other news: UO is buying land in Glenwood and faces two hearings next month (5 pm March 16 in the Sloat Room of the Atrium Building) related to a proposed sprawling riverfront Nike complex and museum. The outcomes of the two hearings are subject to appeal.

In other words: What the F is going on over there at the *Weekly*?

Zachary Vishanoff
Eugene

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Violence, drug use, homelessness, and an increase of adolescents within Lane County's juvenile system is what closing our communities' schools can lead to. The young need organizations and institutions that provide positive, supportive environments. For most of our adolescents, this comes from local schools they have attended throughout their early education years. Taking this away can certainly be a crisis for most young children and adolescents within our community.

Eugene 4J School Board and local public and city officials held a meeting on Feb. 2. A decision was made to close four of our local elementary schools, Crest Drive, Parker, Meadowlark and Coburg Elementary; students, families, and teachers are all now being critically impacted throughout their communities. Parents and children have to adjust to new schools or even new districts, which can cause a huge damper economically for each family. Teachers are facing layoffs with no guarantee to have any work in their field of expertise; in return, Oregon's unemployment rates will dramatically increase.

Giving children what they need to succeed is not removing the place of education where they have already adapted a strong routine. Young people need constructive, enriching opportunities for growth through creative activities, youth programs and congregational involvement, all which are best provided at our local schools. Our youth also need a strong sense of their own power, purpose, worth, and promise which is removed when they are forced to start over and pushed into a different community.

Tiffany Cloud
Springfield

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. E-mail to letters@eugeneweekly.com or fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

Restorative Logging?

More rarity than reality

Beginning with Bush's 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act, there have been a number of politically powered, scientifically justified proposals to log more federal forests. These efforts to increase logging assert that our forests are unhealthy and, therefore, in need of "restoration."

Sen. Wyden's Eastside Forest Restoration and Jobs Act, proposing to triple logging in three million acres of already over-logged forests, brought in a new twist: Environmental organizations are working with the timber industry to promote this latest round of logging.

Jack Ward Thomas, ex-chief the Forest Service and a forger of the Northwest Forest Plan, publicly challenged this collaborative logging proposal. In an *Oregonian* op-ed, he questioned special interest groups dictating national forest policy, undercutting existing forest management laws, and expediting logging by reducing appeals and public participation.

Politically and scientifically driven logging to "restore" our forests precedes the Bush and Wyden efforts by 40 years. In the early 1970s, massive clear-cut logging, called "regeneration harvesting," was sold as a way to bring decadent ancient forests back to health. Liquidating these "overly mature" forests was supposed to create more wildlife habitat, increase water flows and salmon runs, foster more diversity, and help prevent fire. It's done just the opposite.

A Forest Service silviculturalist I worked with during that period jeopardized his career by calling "regeneration harvesting" what it really was ... deforestation. Wikipedia says using buzzwords is "stating goals with opaque words of unclear meaning; their positive connotations prevent questioning of intent." In a *Register-Guard* opinion, Tom Partin of the American Forest Resource Council cloaked this latest logging scam in buzzwords without ever saying the "L" word.

Fear of wildfire is heavily used to sell these forest "restoration" schemes. Logging has not been proven, in practice, to reduce fire frequency or intensity. Historically, the largest, most destructive blazes, like the Tillamook conflagration, were caused from logging or fueled by slash. Unlogged forests, cool and shaded, are typically more fire resistant than cut over, dried-up stands choked with slash and weeds.

Large-scale logging (by any name) has devalued our forests, degraded our waters, damaged soils, and endangered a wide variety of plants and animals. How will the current round of politically and environmentally propelled "restorative" logging proposals differ, in practice, from past logging regimes?

It's a bad time for environmentalists to promote more logging even if it were truly "restorative." In this historically low market, federal timber is sold very cheaply. Timber purchasers already sit on huge logging contracts in order to make windfall profits when markets rise. Selling more timber in a low market further devalues our forest and encourages industry to clamor for more.

Practicing forestry for 35 years, I've worked with federal and private foresters, tribal elders, citizen groups, and even industry to design many successful forest restoration projects that don't involve logging. Fact is, when site and soil impacts are considered, "restorative logging" in federal forests is a rarity ... more of an oxymoron than a reality.

Roy Keene is a local real estate broker and private timberland restoration specialist.



Cutting and burning a crowded understory releases a larch stand without logging