

practices. Smart metering is a portion of that effort, and I would expect it to be initially restricted to the main meter and, perhaps, smart water heaters to address peak load constraints and the intermittent nature of renewable resources. It is just a test and will be reviewed in five years.

Demand management can involve both feedback about use and pricing signals. Both are required to change *any* consumptive behavior, not just energy use. I would urge Dr. Lee, and others who share his concerns, to turn from worrying about their extraordinary claims to a more pressing concern: The absence of pricing signals for behaviors that increase greenhouse gas production. Global warming *does* have evidence to warrant concern.

*Shawn Boles
Eugene*

COME ON DOWN

Our downtown, it's coming back! Now it is time for us as a community to come back as well. The holes are filled in; now let's fill the streets.

I am quite excited and even getting my hopes up that my downtown is on the verge of making a recovery. I know it is early and that the economy is seriously struggling. But, I wish to remain optimistic. Those holes have been eyesores for as long as I can remember (which I know as I get older is not all that long), still!

The big issue, in my opinion is will the people come back? Everyone talks a good game and speaks fondly of times past, when downtowns flourished. There was a Kresge's drugstore, a movie theater, a local hardware store, a department store and not a big box store in sight. Ah, those were the days, eh?

So I am challenging all those who say they desire a thriving downtown to come on down. Support those diehard local businesses who have stuck it out through the tough times. We already have restaurants, bars, galleries, rug stores, furniture stores, etc. As the movie says, "Build it, and they will come." Well they are building it; will you come? For those who feel scared to come down, come with a group of friends; together we can create the foot traffic necessary to make all feel comfortable and welcome. Developers can build on every square inch of our downtown, but it won't make a comeback until *we* come back. What do you say Eugene, do you want a thriving downtown?

*Tim Boyden
Eugene*

INDEFENSIBLE RAISES

UO administrators recently granted themselves raises that far exceed the rate of inflation and are an order of magnitude that is indefensible. The argument that "without raises, executive talent will be lost" is specious at best. The university recruits all the time; and with unemployment at record levels, qualified talent is readily available. Why does a provost making one third of a million dollars need a raise? Even the registrar, making \$100,000 or more per year, would receive at least \$17,000 increase. That's outrageous!

No employee is indispensable, including President Lariviere. This decision will

antagonize a staff already suffering from low moral and fed up with subsidizing administrators. I trust the Legislature will remember this situation the next time the university pleads poverty. There needs to be accountability.

*Pat Reilly
Eugene*

NO HEALTH PROBLEM?

Seneca's biomass plant fails first pollution tests, and Lane Regional Air Protection Agency Director Merlyn Hough doesn't believe it poses a health problem. The American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, many medical societies across the country and our Lane County Health Advisory Committee disagree! They are all against the high rate of pollution from burning biomass (wood).

What kind of protection are the many asthma sufferers in our community getting from Hough and his agency? I believe taxpayers should all be angry when they realize they paid millions to be polluted. In addition, many expect forests to be cut and rivers to be polluted to produce power with this very inefficient method of giving a few houses electricity. I can think of a cheaper and less polluting method such as an effort at conservation like wearing a sweater, insulating the attic or turning out the lights.

*Ruth Duemler
Eugene*

PERMIT TO POISON

I read about Seneca's biomass plant failing its first pollution test. Despite all the rhetoric, what it boils down to is that people are risking our health to make money. It doesn't make sense to have a biomass burner in this valley. Even our home wood stoves create too much pollution. What good does it do for us to have Seneca pay a fine to LRAPA? I would like to know how much energy it takes to gather, load and drive 30 semi truckloads of biomass from the forest to the biomass burner a day compared to the whole 13,000 homes it lights.

It would be better for the forest and our health to let it lie and enrich the devastated land. It seems to me that LRAPA is supposed to be for the people of Lane County; instead, it permits as much poison in the air as it legally can.

*Jean M. Denis
Eugene*

THINK BEFORE INK

When I was in college, I was privileged to hear famous "60s radical" Abbie Hoffman. One highlight of his speech was a caution that "fashion" and "fascist" are next to each other in the dictionary. Our "brave new world" has perfected social control through entertainment and distraction.

I thought of this warning when I read *EW's* Fashion issue (8/11), especially the article promoting tattoos. Perhaps it is a consequence of *EW* taking ads from tattoo parlors but not from dermatologists — it is not in *EW's* financial interest to suggest there might be medical problems from this practice.

The Food and Drug Administration report "Think Before You Ink: Are Tattoos