

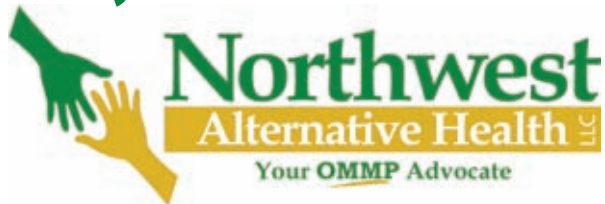
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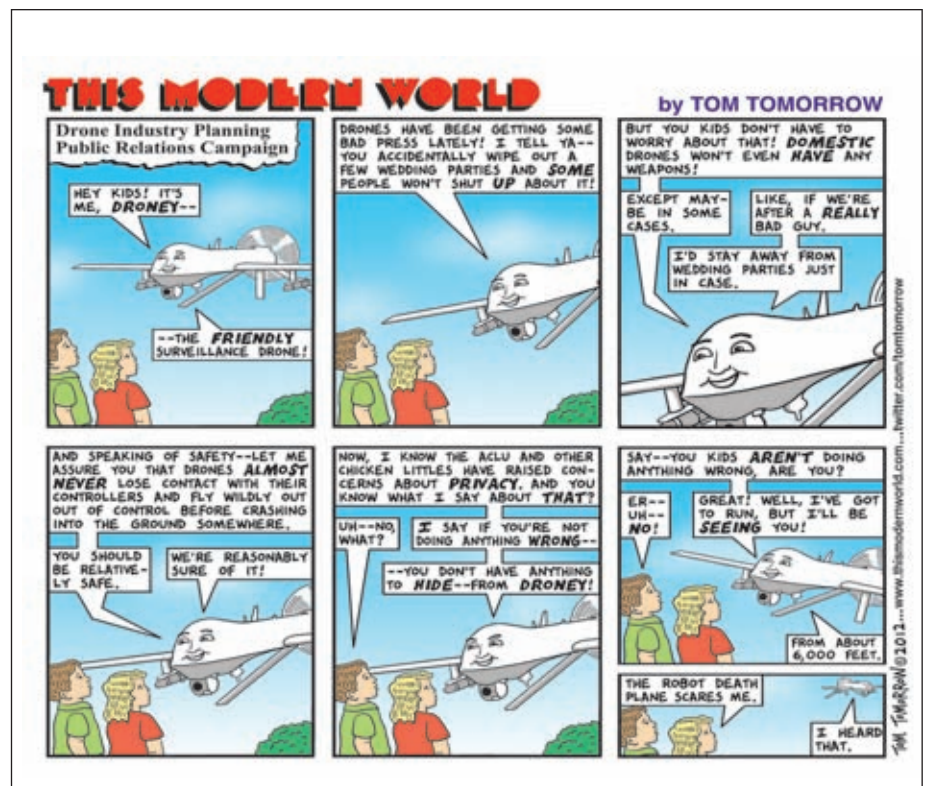
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CLEARCUTS STILL HAPPEN

I've met quite a few people in Eugene who don't realize that logging companies in Oregon still clear-cut on public land ... well, they do. Last year, Governor Kitzhaber and the State Land Board approved a management plan that nearly doubles the annual clear cut of the Elliott State Forest. This year we stand to lose another 850 acres of one of our last intact coastal rainforests.

While Kitzhaber may claim that this increase in logging benefits public schools, he has also admitted that money from logging state lands is "a drop in the bucket" for Oregon public school funding. Clear cutting ancient forests for "a drop in the bucket"? So not worth it.

To quote Utah Phillips, "The Earth is not dying, it is being killed. And the people killing it have names and addresses." The people killing the Elliott State Forest are: John Kitzhaber, Ted Wheeler and Kate Brown.

Grace Warner  
Eugene

### END OF GROWTH

Gas prices in Oregon now average \$4.21 a gallon, the highest they've been since July 2008 and are between \$4.18 at Costco and \$4.59 at HP Car Wash around Eugene. We are still reeling from what these prices did to our economy back in '08, with the SGS unemployment rate still at 22 percent, and the Eurozone still crumbling, with Greece prepared to leave the Euro.

What we are witnessing is "The End Of Growth," which is also the name of two new books about peak oil by ecologist Richard Heinberg and economist Jeff Rubin. All major recessions experienced in the U.S. after the second world war followed sudden oil price hikes, first in 1973 and 1979, then in 1980, when prices reached \$40 per barrel, and oil consumption fell from 17 million barrels a day down to 15. The rise to \$147 in July '08 was half again higher even adjusted for inflation, and sent oil use collapsing from 21 million barrels a day down to 17, and it is still there! World oil production has not

grown at all in seven years, and according to Robert Hirsch, the plateau will end and long decline will begin in 0 to 3 years, and "there will be chaos."

World exports have declined by 5 million barrels a day since 2005, and more of this is going to other importers. The U.S. probably won't import any oil at all by 2020. We need to reverse population and economic growth.

Zachary Moitoza  
Eugene

### GUN OPEN CARRY

There is no more staunch a defender of second amendment rights than yours truly. However, with those rights come responsibility and common sense. The guy who insists on open carry in a downtown setting [EW Blogs 5/23] exhibited little or none of either.

Sure — he was exercising his legal right, but I have to ask: Why? If he feels he needs to carry a weapon he should get a concealed carry license. They're insanely easy to get in Oregon — not like the old days where you had to actually demonstrate competence with your weapon and an understanding of the laws and consequences.

You asked, who came off looking better in that encounter? Definitely the two police officers.

Jerry Ritter  
Springfield

### SMART METER RISK

In spite of poll data indicating opposition to smart meters being installed in the EWEB service area, the "public" utility seems to be going full-steam ahead.

Apparently people are going to have to make it clear that this is not something wanted. The logic of even some EWEB commissioners is "Well, I have wi-fi exposure, so I cannot object to more RF microwave exposure." This position makes no sense — actually, I had dental X-rays the other day, and that does not mean I want more today for no good reason.

Here is a way to picture the risk *not* evaluated. If installed, all the meters must