

kids and then harass folks who don't give them money at intersections. They are narcissistic, selfish, immature folks who *choose* not to work or live in an apartment or get a job. They are not on the street by accident, but by choice. Those who are mentally deficient have made themselves that way through abuse of drugs and alcohol. And, since many are amoral, manipulative and without conscience, they will do whatever they need to do, in order to survive, including theft, assault and murder.

Once, when I was young and naive, I felt sorry for these miscreants. Now, all I think is: "How does *his* family feel about him taking drugs and abandoning his kids?"

Jeff Zekas  
Veneta

**IN DEFENSE OF GOATS**

Phil Biboux contends [letters, 8/2] that "livestock belongs in the country. Leave farming to farmers." He is dismissive of urban goateries. Indeed, he becomes a voice for the anti-goat movement right here in the Emerald City.

But I am not going to sign his petition. I like goats. Their sharp little hooves are worn smooth on pavement and no mud pit appears in my backyard. Rigged into harness they pull a cart requiring no fossil fuel. Wonderful landscape ruminants, unlike deer, they enhance neighborhoods by obliterating unwanted blackberry brambles. Milk and meat produced on such a diet is particularly piquant.

Even a billy goat in rut has an aroma superior to the diesel truck bringing produce in from Phil's commercial country operations.

Support sustainability! Don't sign the anti-goat petition!

David H. Tyson  
Eugene

**COAL AND TIMBER**

Coal export, many experienced forest warriors and I believe, is a cover-up to

ship large amounts of our most precious resource, forests and logs, out into processing plants a few miles offshore and then shipped back for our own use without providing jobs to Americans. How much is this going to cost our community? People in charge of making these decisions need to put some detail into this expenditure of resources and pollution to us and our environment.

Coal dust is notoriously difficult to control. Explosions of coal are probable as well as derailments, which have already started to happen. Every coal train dissipates one pound of coal dust per mile into our air.

We also need a county level review of how many gallons of poisons and "inert" carrying chemicals are seeping into Lane County's environment from logging.

Cancers, neurological damage, birth defects, reduced sperm count, suppressed immune systems and reproductive harms are some of the problems wartime agent orange derivatives such as pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc., cause all living beings within at least 20 miles of aerial spraying.

DeFazio's plan needs a big wrench thrown into it. It is completely crazy. It gives zero to the community and allows Big Timber to steal most of what's left of our sorry forests. Out of 2.5 million acres he gives timber interests 1.5 million acres and more if forests prove hard to manage.

So to summarize: Big coal and timber pillage are connected and they both should be killed.

David Piccioni  
Eugene

*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. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.*

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