

thousands of bee hives are mysteriously dying and we can thank the widespread usage of pesticides and herbicides, along with GMO seed contamination and radiation from cell phones.

In response to Doug Hornaday's letter [2/21], I feel for our beekeepers who are seeing first-hand these effects. My father for four years caught swarms and nurtured his bees and has sadly found them all dead every year. He uses no chemicals on his acre farm and has no explanation for the death of his bees. It's heartbreaking to see a hive build their colony for several months then mysteriously die!

In a single trip a bee will visit between 50 and 100 flowers carrying half its weight in pollen, and to make just one pound of honey a colony of bees will fly 55,000 miles and gather pollen from 2 million flowers! Spraying poison on our food doesn't make sense. And now the city of Eugene is demanding \$7,000 to release records of this information to Beyond Toxics because it's not in the best interest of the people. Obviously they have something to hide?

The Safe Public Places Act will establish an integrated pest management plan to reduce environmental damage due to over-spraying. Go to safepublicplaces.org or info@beyondtoxics.org to help.

Heide Kost
Eugene

END PESTICIDES

I'm writing in support of the views expressed by Doug Hornaday [2/21]

concerning pesticides, bees and water quality. I live in Springfield and I, too, have noticed a decline in the bee population in the native plants in my yard.

I also agree the cities of Eugene and Springfield need to stop using pesticides for the sake of the bees, water, plant life and human health. I would also like to urge homeowners and gardeners in both cities to stop using pesticides so they don't end up in our rivers.

Cynthia Orlando
Springfield

PLANETARY TRIAGE

Trying to mitigate peak oil and climate chaos separately makes both worse. Focusing on energy shortage while ignoring ecology led to the false solutions of tar sands, shale gas, offshore drilling, liquid natural gas, biomass electricity, mountaintop removal and nuclear power.

Focusing only on "carbon" while ignoring energy limits is one of the reasons for the political backlash against climate change awareness. Environmental groups frame these concerns as we should reduce energy consumption instead of we will reduce consumption because we cannot burn fuel that does not exist.

Framing the question as how we will use the remaining oil could bypass the problem of climate change denial. We will reduce our "carbon footprint" whether we want to or not. How many governments or corporations will still exist in 2050 when our footprints are supposed to be smaller? How much oil will be left in 2050 to extract?

Our exponential growth economy has hit the end of growth of resource consumption, imposed by nature as well as politics. Building lots of wind turbines, railroads and relocating agriculture would require reallocating resources used for endless warfare and wasteful consumerism. After "peak everything" there will be fewer resources available for transition. We need triage on a planetary scale to wisely use the remaining fossil fuels and minerals.

Living on our current solar budget would power a smaller, steady state economy. We will live on our solar budget as the oil, unnatural gas and coal go away. Future generations need us to choose wisely and use remaining fossil fuels for relocation and power down. We are past the limits to growth on our round, finite planet.

David Holmgren, a co-originator of permaculture, is author of *Future Scenarios: How Communities adapt to Peak Oil and Climate Change* (see futurescenarios.org):

"Economic recession is the only proven mechanism for a rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions ... most of the proposals for mitigation from Kyoto to the feverish efforts to construct post Kyoto solutions have been framed in ignorance of peak oil. As Richard Heinberg has argued recently, proposals to cap carbon emissions annually, and allowing them to be traded, rely on the rights to pollute being scarce relative to the availability of

the fuel. Actual scarcity of fuel may make such schemes irrelevant."

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

SCALPING OF ZION

Hey, anyone happen to notice the visibly hideous scalp-job that one of the Giustina brothers(?) is doing on Mount Zion? This largess of a butte is visible from Eugene, looking south, as it sits alone exposed and prominent in the landscape. It is part of a chain of small mountains that lead up to Mount June and sits close to Eagles Rest. Can someone look into this? Go see for yourselves!

What a gross display of arrogance and greed! The top 80 acres is BLM. The rest is history and we are left with an incredible eyesore, a land denuded and degraded. Poisoned by ignorance and a lack of morals. Shame on the property owners who own hundreds of thousands of acres and cannot leave alone the stellar visual features of Mount Zion's slopes. Scalped, raped, scarred, demoralized and dead.

Once again, our property is invaded by fleeing wildlife, refugees from an industrial war zone. If you happen to be driving up Lost Creek Road, or even Hwy. 58, just keep your eyes fixed on God's road, don't look up! Keep your eyes on God's glorious road! For shame!

Thomas W. Baxter
Dexter

QUÉ PASA BY JORGE NAVARRO

Immigration Reform

DREAMS, THEN AND NOW TOWARD PROGRESS

I had a strange dream last night. In my dream the lights were low ... there, stage right, the Chicano devil, wearing a black fedora, pointed black shoes, pock-marked face, oversized styled black pants, bright red shirt, thin black moustache, full-on zoot suit. I hear him whispering in my ear, "Go ahead, stick 'em, it's OK, go ahead, do it." I abruptly awoke.

Where am I? Oh, 1944 Los Angeles, near the end of World War II, Mexicans fighting sailors, gabachos, each other, pochos, their parents, themselves and an arbitrarily dysfunctional immigration system ... I'm hazy, I'm finding it difficult to separate the past from the present, dreams from reality ... my alarm goes off.

So here it is, 2013. I am sitting in the office of our congressional representative, Peter DeFazio. Latino/Hispanic voters from across the country have been given credit for re-electing a president whose administration has deported more undocumented immigrants in the past four years than the past three administrations combined, and now we are on the cusp of comprehensive immigration reform. Go figure. Peter reports that Congress is a mess. Not much will be coming out of that body for the time being. Political maneuvering, grandstanding and general gridlock appear to be the order of the day. Meanwhile, a large group of marginalized, abused human beings are waiting in the wings.

On the surface of it, the issues that are being discussed are green cards, paths to citizenship, guest worker programs, back taxes, border security, e-verify, waiting

in line, fines, criminal records, families and reforming a broken immigration system. At the state level, getting licenses back, the economy, labor and public safety are dominant issues.

The underlying issues are even more complex: culture, language, history, financial systems, corporations, worker rights, education, integration, exclusion, global migration, global economics, the environment, open borders, closed borders, language, global and local food systems, human rights, nutrition, religion, health, stereotypes, gender issues. And as if all of these weren't enough, let's add the overwhelming task of recognizing 11 million people.

At the local level, the responsibility for informing, educating, and connecting with our immigrant community will fall to community volunteers and nonprofit agencies like Downtown Languages, Centro LatinoAmericano, Amigos, Huerto de la Familia and the many others who have served this community for such a long time. Where are the resources for this monumental task going to come from?

We have a lot to talk about. Over the coming months media will be reporting on the progress, or not, of comprehensive immigration reform. The intent of the Qué Pasa collective is to include the voices of local Latino/Latina activists and community members in the conversation. Our hope is to create dialogue, which will inform and promote understanding. The Hispanic

community is not monolithic. Religion, class, philosophy, gender, language, education, music, art, economics, color, age, geography and tradition all contribute to the broad spectrum of what it is to be Latino or Latina, which defies categorization. This diverse group carries historical memory based on a generational experience that is bound by language and culture, which in turn informs identity and unifies. Family and language are the protective factors that keep us sane.

I know the planet is in crisis, double-speaking politicians yammer away, radical, dogmatic and unforgiving philosophies abound, and yet I sense opportunity. The work of Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers that forced the nation to witness the reality of the lives of Mexican immigrants working in the fields; the years that have paid homage to the sacrifices of so many Latinos who risked their lives standing up for human rights and fighting for this country; CAUSA, PCUN, the countless small and large Latino-based organizations, and all of our allies, who have stayed committed to making this a better place for all; the Occupy Movement reminding us about the issues of distribution of wealth, fairness, social justice; they have all conspired to get us here. Comprehensive immigration reform: a promising future where a new wave of immigrants from Africa or the Middle East or Asia or wherever, will not have to suffer being shadows, invisible and unappreciated for generations. Instead they will be recognized for bringing the gifts and hope that this nation so desperately needs.

Is this reality? Am I dreaming? Where am I? Oh, the alarm just went off.

Jorge Navarro arrived in Oregon in 1973 and is a first generation Mexican American. He has worked with the Latino community for over 40 years. He is currently Huerto de la Familia's Micro Enterprise program manager.