

BEST USE FOR TREES?

The debate about logging public lands is like a Hatfield/McCoy feud — it just goes on and on. Over the past 30 or more years we have heard many of the same arguments over and over and over.

It is especially tiresome because the arguments are not relevant anymore. What is relevant is that forests are the critical terrestrial sink for carbon emissions. The scientific effort to find this “missing” terrestrial sink — a sink that had to exist based on carbon balance calculations — has borne fruit. We live in the midst of an extraordinarily productive global forest, and that forest sucks up carbon dioxide like a global-scale Hoover and turns it into organic matter at incomparable (and essential) rates. We need to leave that carbon in place — sequestered.

Scientists have been pursuing the nature of the missing sink for decades, and now we know that we live in it. The scientific trail is long, but it culminates in a study by Pan et al. in 2011 in *Science* magazine. I quote: “Our total forest sink estimate is equivalent in magnitude to the terrestrial sink deduced from fossil fuel emissions and land-use change sources minus ocean and atmospheric sinks.”

Global emissions of CO₂ are still growing greater each year. The evidence of warming is obvious. The highest and best use for trees is to keep them vertical and growing.

Tom Giesen
Eugene

NO GUNS ARE SAFE

When Gary Crum’s name appears at the end of letters to the editor, his ideas consistently have merit. Then there is the exception that proves the rule, like his Viewpoint on gun control June 28. Maybe he was pulling our legs with his proposal for a registry of gun ownership acceptable to gun owners, as well as to those who challenge private possession of guns.

He refers to “legitimate gun owners.” I think he realizes there is no such thing. Some gun owners have good intentions, but there are times when the best-intentioned, like all of us, are subject to moments of passion or great anger that result in impulsive behavior, including use of guns. Or they may be careless about where they place their guns, enabling innocent youngsters to take them and become unwitting killers.

I suspect Gary knows that just as he has “no panacea” for protecting the public from guns, there is no such thing as a safe gun.

George Beres
Eugene

SELL THE UO’S GUNS

After a long process of seeming to try too hard — the UO has succeeded in starting the arming of campus police with high-powered handguns. This seems strange since the most reported crimes on campus are bike theft and computer theft. The most likely big event — a large party out of control.

More military-type weapons is a bad step toward looking like Anaheim. If that does not call up an image, one can Google or YouTube the recent militarized police actions in that California city.

It is not too late for the UO and Eugene. Sell the handguns and buy less-than-lethal weapons like Tasers and steel ball-shooting paintball guns used for riot control.

Here is a working hypothesis as to what the results will be in a year or two: Having the less-than-lethal weapons will mean more students on campus, or at least fewer dead or gravely injured ones.

Michael Lee
Eugene

MOVING INTO THE BORG

I, too, question the choices being made to grow our core community (June 20 Slant). Slant zeroed in on the giveaway of tax exemptions to developers in fear that they won’t step up to build megaplexes. A real lose-lose proposition. Ever since Capstone leveraged its way into a prime open space downtown, I’ve alluded to my senior friends that once the over-building of student housing becomes evident, that building just might be the option for our low-income housing needs in the not too distant future, as the Slant piece quipped.

At this point I see little imagination or grace in the “borg” building and its parking garage looming next to it that would entice me to find it home. Is there really any consideration to diversify the downtown between all ages, ethnicities

and income levels? Is there any green space being planned? Will families want to live downtown? How about a senior artist colony in the downtown, a new and wonderful trend being built in some communities (Google engAGE).

We deserve a downtown with a year-round, full-spectrum community — not unlike Jerry Diethelm’s vision of Emerald Canal, printed last week.

Martha Snyder
Eugene

STRUGGLING TOGETHER

In loving memory of Karl Sorg — who was a deeply and actively involved observer and free legal consultant from the heart. A dear friend of the homeless, friend of the court, friend of mine in my earlier time of need. I was shocked at the news that he had passed away at 90. Then I realized it had been so many years ago that he and I and a whole big group of homeless supporters struggled together for the sake of human rights.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Danielle Smith
Eugene

NOT SO LIBERAL

While you highlight issues that more mainstream local dailies often ignore (eg. environment, police hostility) may I propose that you are not quite as “liberal” and “progressive” as you seem to make yourselves out to be.

I was delighted to see that a person of



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