

restricted to Washington, D.C., only.

Jon Meadow
Eugene

THE APHIDS ARE COMING

In response to Mike Koivula's comment in the "Bee Kills Lead to New Restrictions" story July 3, I wanted to mention to him that linden trees (*Tilia spp.*) are very susceptible to aphid infestations indeed. So are tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and northern red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) to name a few of the trees I witness being attacked every year. Some years are better than others but if it's a bad year, lindens will be covered with aphids — no exception!

Alby Thoumsin, arborist
Springfield

SAD DEMOCRACY

Raphael Aldave says it perfectly [Lighten Up, 7/3]. Our so-called

democracy is in sorry shape. Government is all about what big business wants and not at all about what citizens need to lead healthy, productive lives.

Georgette Silber
Eugene

A PAIR OF PARADOXES

Protesting plans for export of oil, coal and natural gas helps the energy companies via unintended acceptance of exaggerated reserve estimates. Energy company share values are partly based on the size of the resources they have access to, and exaggeration of those estimates boosts their values. Coal peaked in the U.S. in 1999. Conventional natural gas peaked in 1973. Oil extraction peaked in the U.S. in 1970, even if there is misleading hype that we supposedly are going to become an oil exporter due to fracking. And speaking of fracking, it is a dirty secret that fracked wells deplete faster than conventional wells. Fracking for

natural gas is near or at peak. Fracking for oil has been a short term boom, but it cannot replace the existing fields that are depleting. In May, the Department of Energy admitted plans for oil fracking in California had been exaggerated and downsized the estimated resource by 95 percent.

If we keep burning fossil fuels we will continue to wreck the biosphere, but if we suddenly stopped that would wreck civilization, which could accelerate ecological destruction (how many forests would be burned for electricity, for example). Fossil fuels allowed our population to zoom from under a billion to over seven billion today.

Climate activists say if we don't "do something" fossil fuel combustion will increase. However, we are at peak(ed) energy and cannot increase usage even if we wanted to.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene, PeakChoice.org

MIXED-USE PATH

When I read Ted Chudy's letter "Bike Congestion" in the July 10 EW, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. It's a mixed-use area! When I was walking down there this morning I saw road bikes, mountain bikes, three-wheel bikes, those odd upright elliptical bikes, moms and dads with strollers, toddlers, children, adults, old folks with walkers, dogs, squirrels and geese.

Rather than painting a line down the middle and then issuing citations to the dog owners when their dogs cross the line, Ted should follow the common practice and slow down when approaching groups, give warning when passing. And please use some common sense and compassion. If he wants to avoid dealing with this delightful diversity, he should go drive on the freeway and then he can complain about the people driving too slow in the fast lane.

Billy Lindros
Eugene

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