

ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

An Aug. 6 Slant item advocates electing politicians who have better attitudes toward the global warming crisis. The sad reality is that the world cannot afford to wait until U.S. voters kick the bums out of office.

Grassroots political activism must instead convince the current crop of elected officials to effectively fight global warming. Protesting, lobbying, writing letters to the editor, etc., can be part of the democratic process.

Global warming scientists cannot predict the exact effect of greenhouse gas emissions over a short period of time, but the failure of the 2009 U.N. Copenhagen Conference was very harmful. If the U.N. Paris Conference of December 2015 does not create an international agreement preventing 2 degrees Celsius of global warming, the world's peril will increase further, as greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere.

The U.S. government is the biggest barrier to an effective international agreement, and within the U.S., Congress is the biggest problem. Some good news: Reports from the Citizens' Climate Lobby's June meetings with congressional offices show a change for the better in the attitudes of Republican politicians. A carbon tax could become part of a tax reform bill.

Milton Takei
Eugene

SIMPLE SOLUTION

I have a simple, two-word solution for trash on the riverbanks: trash cans. The city of Ashland has one on every corner downtown and one every quarter mile or so throughout Lithia Park. Every time I walk the bike path here, I'm shocked at how few trash receptacles there are. My guess is that if they were there, people would use them. Yes, even the homeless.

Angela Kern
Eugene

CRAZY AND EXTREME

I am conservative, an independent, and I decided not to vote Republican, because they will cut Social Security 20 percent, cut Medicare and cut disability. I am a senior. I don't need them after all. Forget it! And they're nuts about abortion. They're too crazy and extreme for me.

D.H. Bucher
Eugene

ANTI-PET BIAS

When we talk about housing for the homeless, I don't understand how pets are treated with such discrimination and prejudice [A Sense of Normalcy, 7/23]!

When we see an article about homelessness, rarely does it include animals in non-profit shelters and humane societies! The recent article "Time to Play," cover story of the EW pets issue July 23, boasts, "Clients can choose one of three packages for their adventurous dogs." Although this is helpful to some, it's disturbing to know many property owners, including the low-income apartment complex I am inhabiting, still discriminate on breed and have been less than lenient about letting your dog on the premises without a

\$400 pet deposit, \$200 more than what I was paying a month ago! This is in addition to a pet rent of \$20 per month. My 5-year-old boy is cause for more damage than my 14-pound miniature pinscher! Get over it, and let them eat cake!

Emerald Cumberland
Eugene

CECIL IS A SYMBOL

Cecil the lion is not a distraction [Letters, 8/6]. Cecil is a sentient being with a family and a life, which was murderously ended by a selfish collector of trophies. Cecil is a symbol to animal rights activists and to all those people who love and respect animals — in a similar way that Rosa Parks is a symbol to civil rights activists.

Those who try to make a hierarchy of pain and claim that their issue is more important than someone else's wounds, be it a suffering lion or a suffering planet, do not bring support to their point of view. To vilify or put down people's emotional reaction to a tragedy is not helpful. Would the fundamentalist right juxtapose photos of tortured Abu Ghraib victims next to photos of fetuses the way they used Cecil? Comparisons like this make me even more horrified by the state of this decrepit civilization.

All sentient creatures have the right to a life without suffering, especially one tired old lady on a bus like Rosa Parks; especially one magnificent lion, father of his pride, like Cecil. To care about individual life is the first step to caring about the Earth and all life. I'm glad that the children in my neighborhood understand this and care about Cecil.

They will care about the Earth someday if we adults get our priorities straight and fight for the rights of one lion and one old woman, one homeless man, one transgendered person, as well as fighting against the institutional, bureaucratic and corporate destroyers of the planet.

Eileen Polk
Eugene

POPULATION CONTROL

To answer Mr. McMahon's concerns [Letters, 8/6 regarding forced sterilization], it figures someone would put their own Hitlerian spin on my suggestions. I specifically cited the rhinovirus because it causes the common cold, which practically everyone on the planet gets sooner or later! Ergo, a genetically altered rhinovirus would affect almost everyone eventually and not target any one group in particular, regardless of race, intelligence, wealth or lack thereof, gender, political preferences, religious beliefs, etc.!

Also, it wouldn't matter where on the planet it was released, as the rhinovirus spreads like wildfire on a windy day. Mr. McMahon, if you have another suggestion that is completely fair to everyone, let's hear it! My solution would be.

Todd L. Bone
Junction City

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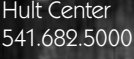
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