

dies for incurably inefficient and unreliable wind and solar projects and put just 20 percent of the money saved into research to find a true replacement for fossil fuels.

It is mathematically provable that the only replacement possible is some form of safe nuclear power, which has the highest energy density of all sources and is capable of operating reliably 24/7/365, not just when the wind blows and the sun shines.

The most promising hope is simplified hot fusion technology that does not use expensive lasers, as does the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, which is a costly boondoggle. A number of private companies, including aerospace giant Lockheed Martin, have low-cost compact fusion designs they think they can get to work at reasonable cost.

All life is carbon based. A hysterical war on carbon is a war against living.

*Christopher Calder
Eugene*

NEVER CEASE

Protest is what ended the Vietnam War. People died and were sent to prison for taking part in protests against that abomination of U.S. government policy, but they persevered.

Many innocent people have died because of government policy regarding gun ownership in this country. The only way to get politicians' attention is to protest and to vote. Keep protesting, loud, long and strong.

Make your voices heard everywhere: in schools, in churches, in your state capitals, in the U.S. capital, in your social groups, in the media. When you become eligible to vote, vote out of office every politician who accepts money from the NRA (No Responsibility Association).

Persevere.

*Chuck West
Eugene*

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

I must say I was quite dismayed with Barbara Mossberg's visions of waterfront development along the Willamette River ("Designing a Waterfront Town," 3/8). She describes the Willamette as "a beautiful, large, wild river" and "one of the most beautiful unspoiled rivers in the world."

With five dams in its headwater tributaries, excessive logging within watershed boundaries and aerial spraying of monoculture forests, the Willamette is hardly unspoiled and definitely not wild. The waterfront development in other American and European cities has tainted rivers passing through them, and watershed development is a main contributor to degradation.

If we are a society that cares about the environment, we must take steps to achieve a 400-year transformation away from dam building and hard-scaping rivers. That requires us to admit that rivers are wild and dynamic, and that hemming them in diminishes their character and robs them of their beauty and sustainable potential.

There will never be successful salmon and steelhead recovery unless we dream about moving development at least 1,000 feet from the banks, removing dams and considering alternatives for flooding, pow-

er and irrigation.

Eugene needs a democratization of development so that each neighborhood can have its own Red Barn Grocery, Sam Bond's, WOW Hall and culture centers. And when it comes to the Willamette, we traverse a serpentine path to a small opening where we will get to behold a truly wild, beautiful and unspoiled river.

*Louis J. Wentz
Eugene*

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

I am here on the ground with about 50 students and half a dozen representatives of CAPE (Community Alliance for Public Education) at a silent vigil (March 16) in response to the Springfield School District's clamp down on the public charter arts school, because "it's obvious the community-based A3 board can't protect the students."

The announcement came at the March 12 monthly school board meeting, and the next day the kids organized themselves into a student council that they had never felt the need for until then. They have just come out from spending 30 minutes with the superintendent Sue Reiki-Smith.

The adults mess up and what comes of it? The kids lose an irreplaceable asset, emotional bonds with teachers who will be yanked out and replaced, and potential disruptions to graduation.

Kudos to the kids who reacted in a sophisticated way to protect the school they love. A student council member says, "We came today to start a conversation."

*Jesse Cox
Eugene*

REGRESSIVE POLITICS

Recently, a local young woman of color and college community activist demanded that Lane County Commissioner candidate James Barber step aside after she discovered a history of sexist social media posts made by the county commission candidate.

Community leaders have already begun to rethink their support of Barber. A week ago, three Democratic Party officials quietly distanced themselves from the Barber campaign, rescinding endorsements that they made earlier this year.

I stand with the University of Oregon democrats. It's unfortunate that some white men who work with women, yet make the workplace uncomfortable for those women, believe they are entitled to progressive support.

After the 2016 election I made a commitment to fight regressive politics and keep racists and sexists out of office. Here in Lane County, that means James Barber should step aside to make room for the more progressive, more qualified candidates.

*Jeri Linn
Coburg*

MOVE OVER, GEEZER

I say no in thunder to Joe Biden (*EW Slant*, 3/15). He's too damn old. As are Trump, Hillary and Bernie.

The geezers need to get out of the way and let a younger generation take over.

*Mike Kopf, age 70
Eugene*

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