



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A coward and a draft dodger

As a veteran of the U.S. Army, a draftee who served during the time of the Vietnam conflict, I would like to share my opinion that Donald Trump is a coward and a draft dodger.

I do not consider him to be a man who has the ethics, values and morality to be worthy of the title of commander in chief. He is completely lacking in the ability to provide leadership and he frequently shows that his only skill for negotiation is to demean, insult, denigrate, threaten and lie to other individuals and countries. I am embarrassed that he is the image that the rest of the world has of the U.S.

**Gordon D. Wright, Eugene**

### Burning wood is killing us

Lisa Arkin, the Executive Director of Beyond Toxics, recently penned a letter (Dec. 31) discussing the dirty air we've all been breathing. Arkin cited some alarming data from Lane Regional Air Protection Agency showing that from November through mid-December our air was healthy to breathe only one out of every three days.

While Arkin discussed industrial pollution, I wanted to bring the public's attention to pollution from residential wood-burning heating systems. The top sources of air pollution in the colder months of the year are residential wood-burning heating systems. Burning wood is an archaic way to heat homes and is literally killing us.

If you monitor our air quality at purpleair.com, you'll see as the temperature drops and the wood burning increases, the particulates flow, filling our air and then our lungs.

This is an easy problem to solve. We can phase out wood-burning heating systems, replacing them with systems that won't foul our own air. We'll need to subsidize low-income households, but clean air is well worth the cost. I suggest contacting your elected officials and urging them to create a phase-out program for woodburning heating systems.

**Joshua Welch, Eugene**

### Standards of public trust under attack

Mayors and city councilors, in the news are these items: People being allowed to defecate and leave garbage on other people's lawns and police are doing nothing about it.

People doing the same things at businesses, scaring away customers so a company's livelihood is near bankruptcy.

People punching police officers without penalty.

These are some issues facing the United States.

Let me ask you this: What if this happened to each of your homes and businesses and you were punched with no penalty? How could you live?

You couldn't.

So, why aren't you changing these situations within a week because of how awful it is? You see San Francisco and Seattle. Why aren't you stopping this?

Are we expendables, collateral damage? Are you so big picture that you can't see your child experiencing this?

When will you be one of us? We need you to act swiftly, with justice and compassion. When you allow those doing good to be subjected to those who are harming them, you've made everything upside down. You're failing, fully failing us.

**Bill Northrup, Eugene**

### Monocrops are not forests

It was refreshing to read David Eisler's recent opinion piece (Guest View, Jan. 7) highlighting the differences between industrial tree farms and actual forests. As someone who works in public lands defense, I see the industry's euphemisms at work all the time. I see them when a forest is turned into a moonscape with a "regeneration harvest," or when a healthy stand slated "early seral creation" is just clearcut.

Before I worked in public lands advocacy, I was a high school teacher. For years I would take my students on field trips to the forest, to tree farms and to clearcuts. I never had to explain to them that a clearcut is unnatural, devastating and horrendous. My students saw it and felt it.

Anyone can see and feel the difference between a plantation and a forest, a clearcut and a natural disaster. As Eisler says, the two aren't the same, and we all know it.

Forest ecologists and experts agree that clearcut/ plantation-style management pollutes waterways, harms fish, increases fire risk and contributes to catastrophic climate change.

Big Timber's propaganda should not be allowed to pass for fact. Spread the word: monocrop plantations are not forests and clearcuts are not natural.

**Samantha Krop, Eugene**