

or effective, I think we can all agree the flyers obscure the contents of the boxes. This is especially the case when we have out-of-town guests who might be interested to know that Eugene has an alternative weekly and might be educated by its contents but don't have a clue what's inside those red boxes.

Keep up the good fight, Zach, and keep expressing yourself freely, but for gosh sake, don't go out of your way to make it hard for others to make their voices heard as well.

David Cecil
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're not certain if Zach is the one doing this since we haven't been able to locate him. If anyone spots Zach (hooded sweatshirt, straw hat and sunglasses), tell him he's a "person of interest" in this case.

DIRTY LAUNDRY

In Alan Pittman's article "Off-Track Town," he says in his intro that he hopes "airing some dirty laundry ... will spark embarrassment that induces change." As an employee of a downtown business, I would suggest that Pittman himself is helping to obstruct some of the change that we in the downtown are working for.

There are many, many wonderful things that happen downtown on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. Those of us who work downtown know each other, and there is a really community vibe to our days. We work for the city, for shops, in restaurants, as lawyers, stock brokers and massage technicians. We enjoy the Saturday and Farmers' Markets and we love the shopping, the restaurants, the library, the Shedd, the Hult Center and the McDonald Theatre. We hang out in the galleries, the coffee houses, the restaurants and the true center of locally owned shops. I am proud that both the Kesey and the Free Speech plaza commemorate two great iconoclasts in Eugene history. There are tons of places to lock your bike, every bus ends up downtown and the first hour in any city garage is free.

These are the things that anyone who has spent time downtown already knows. For those who don't already know about these things, Alan Pittman's coverage of downtown will surely discourage them from coming out and discovering their favorite part of downtown for themselves. I am weary of reading the same article rehashed time and again about all that is broken in downtown, and in the rest of the city. I would encourage Pittman and others to challenge themselves and try writing an article about the many good things that happen all over Eugene every day. That's an article I will look forward to reading.

Reisa Maddex
Footwise, Inc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please read our 9/7/2006 cover story, "Celebrate Eugene," available in our online archives. This was "our positive issue where we celebrate and list the many good things about Eugene's high quality of life."

GARDENING SECRET

I'm certain that you have been flooded with emails and letters in response to the recent news about OSU Extension Services of Lane County. I felt like I needed to chime

in.

I'll start by saying that over the years, I have fed myself and countless others from my extensive West Jefferson neighborhood garden. I tell everybody about my secrets for a long season of raspberries, my constant lettuce supply, my all-year celery and, of course, the reason I don't let bugs pester me or my plants.

The secret is this: Every time I ran into a problem, I just picked up the phone and talked to a master gardener or attended an educational seminar at Extension Services. It's how I learned and how I learned the importance of teaching others.

Over the years, Extension Services has supported local schools, FOOD for Lane County, and countless other good causes. Now they need our help. In the long run, community involvement and local funding could be a positive development for everybody involved.

Losing funding can be an extremely difficult transition, but I know I speak for a large portion of the community when I say that we're in this together, and we won't let Extension Services down.

Brien McMullen
Eugene

AIPAC ANTI-PEACE

Eugeneans should be aware of what their progressive leadership has been up to lately. In Portland on May 21, a number of Democratic leaders attended the annual AIPAC gala dinner. AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) is the powerful lobby supporting the views of the right-wing, militaristic wing of Israeli politics, including bellicose attitudes towards Lebanon and Syria, a no-negotiation approach towards the Palestinians and strongly advocating for attacking Iran. Present that evening were Oregon State Senator House Speaker Jeff Merkley (D-Portland), who is running against Senator Gordon Smith next fall, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and Sen. Vicki Walker (D-Eugene).

The *Weekly*, in its endorsement of Walker's run for Secretary of State, called her a "an outspoken and meticulous crusader for justice." Yet she appears to be more concerned about justice at home than abroad, as showing support for AIPAC is one significant way to show support for more military "solutions" in the Middle East.

AIPAC has a policy of courting city, state and federal representatives, with a long-term objective to continue a very pro-Israel hold on Congress. For long, AIPAC has worked behind the scenes, undercutting the efforts of the peace movement. We need to ask our politicians to continue to represent us and bring a balanced approach to questions impacting the Arab and Muslim world.

An article describing the gala dinner and the talks given will be posted on the website for AUPHR (Portland-based Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, www.auphr.com).

Nancy Hedrick, former Eugenean
and Peter Miller, president, AUPHR
Portland

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