

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mounted Police at Vancouver National Airport in 2007?). Any officer or police force that has no qualms about using Tasers so indiscriminately should not be out patrolling our streets. They're certainly not doing a good job protecting our safety and, if anything, are actually making Eugene a more dangerous place.

But what really angers me is not the fact that we have a trigger-happy agent on our hands, but rather the fact that no one in our community is particularly outraged by these incidents. Aside from the few letters and articles I have seen in the local papers, there has been no action whatsoever on the hands of citizens to stop these despicable acts. Have we become so apathetic that the physical abuse of our peers causes us no disturbance, anger, shame or surprise?

John Sheehy
Eugene

NOT FOR YOUNG MINDS

I am not a prude. I am not overly conservative. I'm not opposed to consensual sex between adults of any flavor, race or color. I did think your cover picture ("Festish Fun," 10/8) was both irresponsible and inappropriate. I have read letters to your paper before against sexy advertising and columns like "Savage Love," and every single time I thought to myself "freedom of the press," "Give the readers what they want" and "Well then, don't read it, buddy." I feel it's your right to address adult topics inside the pages of your magazine and on the back cover.

A newspaper box outside the public library at the eye level of a 5 to 7-year-old with a picture of a bound woman being paddled is simply not appropriate. When you place a newspaper cover like that in public, family-oriented spaces, you take my ability to supervise what I expose my child to. I have the right to take my child to all public venues without having to explain what bondage is, or in what situations it's appropriate to bind and wallop people.

EW, please consider that while your regular readers do love your racier stories, I feel that you really crossed the line with that one. The story was good, the picture was lovely (for the inside), but I resent the fact that my son, among other young children, was exposed to that picture.

Melissa Hicks
Eugene

PREDATORY CAPITALISM

Bob Doppelt, writing in Eugene's daily paper, bemoans people's unwillingness to make the necessary lifestyle changes to stop global warming. He seems to expect us all to spend a lot of money buying hybrid cars, even though my 2000 Honda Civic gets better mileage than a Toyota Prius. Well, that depends on whether I am making 20 four-block trips a day or driving to Corvallis once a week. This is where the lifestyle choice comes in, not in our willingness to buy an expensive car that most of us can't afford.

The real problem is predatory capitalism. This causes most of our problems, including global warming, air pollution, water pollution, swine flu, out of control insurance companies, out of control drug prices, out of control hospital charges, out of control lending practices, out of control college costs, attacks on workers' wages, inflation of living expenses for poor people but a refusal to recognize the cost of living increase because, after all, plane tickets to Europe, fancy wines and luxury cars are cheaper than ever. So the cost of living is falling, see?

So no raises for the poor. Instead, our paid hours are cut and we are expected to work for free. Instructional aides in the Eugene schools (4J) have had their paid hours cut from 30 to 15 per week, but they are still expected to complete 30 hours of work. This reduction in paid hours eliminates their eligibility for health insurance, and there is no sick leave, so if they get sick, they have to keep working. This is a glorious way to make the whole population sick during the worst flu epidemic in 40 years. Your barista and waiter also have to keep working when they are sick. I hope you have had your flu shots.

Ann Tattersall
Eugene

FEET ON THE STREET

After 20 years overseas, I began a return to Eugene last year and conducted an independent survey of the downtown — still a hot topic after all those years! I was working as a "de-confuser," and this unresolved issue fascinated me. I have come up with food for thought about healing "the heart of our city."

Instead of waiting for "them" to fix the downtown, let's create a central social district. Many efforts in this direction

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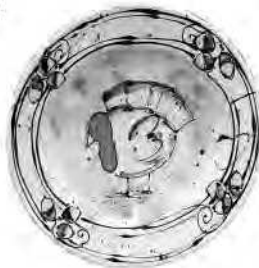


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