

of the U.S. dollar by financing an ever-expanding trillion dollar war with money borrowed from the Chinese, and he is doing this out of vanity and pride, not legitimate national security concerns.

Rep. Peter DeFazio and Sen. Jeff Merkley oppose Obama's unjust war. I suggest concerned citizens write and call pro-war Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and complain loudly.

*Christopher Calder
Eugene*

I'M A LITTLE TEA BAG

I'd like to say I found this next to an empty Lipton's box, but that isn't true.

I'm a tea bag who is being used and abused, and I protest.

What are these people doing tying me on hats and pasting me on other body parts? And then going out in public?

For Earl Grey's sake. If they are devoid of propriety, can they not exhibit a smidgeon of understanding and compassion? I'm being abducted willy-nilly from tea pot, cozy and tea cup and exposed to the elements with no regard for my integrity. Put on display like a common trollope. Or that Prejean person who I understand *likes* to get naked and be shown to people.

I protest vehemently. I am not that kind of product. I have an ancient and reputable history. (I hope these people are not so ignorant that they're holding it against me because I was an immigrant to these shores. But realistically I can't count on that, can I? Look how shamefully they treated the original inhabitants.)

This ongoing misuse of innocent teabags is either misguided or deliberately vicious. Dangling me from a poster and letting me drip in the rain or dry to dust in the sun is a crime against nature and family values. I am pledged by centuries of unbroken tradition to be joined in holy matrimony with boiling water. Stapling me to a vest is tantamount to bestiality.

My friends and I have started the protest group Teabags Against Mob Exploitation or TAME. Please join us.

Think of the children. Protect teabag morality.

*Morgan Songi
Eugene*

DOGS ON THE LOOSE

I wanted to share my recent experiences with some incidents that occurred in my neighborhood.

Mid-summer, afternoon, a dog rushes out of an open front door ears pinned back, its tail held rigid and level with the ground. My dog tries to hide behind me to retreat from its advances. She is an 11-year-old family pet. She had been increasingly skittish and elusive since being attacked and injured by a Rottweiler the previous summer. The stray finally freezes up with our submissive Labrador muzzle to muzzle. The dog snaps and I see teeth gnash at her face. I react. My foot connected just behind the jaw line of the assailant with enough conviction to encourage retreat.

Last night, my partner and I are walking on the river path, plenty of folks out, a Sunday evening; two dogs come galloping toward us. Our baby is asleep in the

backpack on her mother. I have our dog. Same thing goes down. One of the dogs enters into a confrontational position and demeanor. I shout at the dog and stamp my foot down. It turns towards me and advances. I swing wildly. I connect with its right eye socket as it loaded back onto its hind legs to spring its advance.

I am no fighter. I am a family man, student, dog lover. After so many close calls and the recent assaults, I am declaring the dog situation a community threat. If you cannot control an animal, keep it out of public spaces. If your dog is mean and scary, do not let it run where there might be children!

Where is Animal Control? Giving citations to people playing fetch with no leash in the park?

*Matt Dillender
Eugene*

HOW TO SAVE DOWNTOWN

There is something all the people who say they are interested in reviving downtown Eugene could do right now to start downtown on that road to revival. They could actually go downtown in the month of December, have a cup of coffee, lunch and/or dinner and buy at least one holiday gift.

With at least 20 restaurants and cafes, three furniture and two carpet stores, two bike shops, two shoe stores, two bookstores, several art galleries, a music store, a clock shop, a lingerie store, a couple of jewelry stores, several gift stores, a novelty/import store, a toy store and more, shoppers should be able to find a gift or five. While downtown, they could also get a foot massage, a haircut and new tires for the car!

So, anyone who has expressed an interest in downtown, just get yourself down there now!

*Ann Herrick
Eugene*

DON'T REMIND ME

Last week I was walking downtown when a homeless man told me to have a nice day! Can't I walk down the street without being harassed? He then preceded to give me a high five. I was shocked and dismayed. Later, while I was approaching the downtown library, a teenage girl who was smoking told me she liked my haircut. I feared for my life! What is the world coming to? She should be sitting on the couch at home playing a violent video game where she belongs.

Just a few steps further a beggar asked me for change! It took me one whole second to tell him "no," and then I had to deal with the awkwardness and guilt of that encounter for the next half a minute. Can't we lock transients up where I don't have to see them? I hate being reminded that people less financially secure than I exist.

Downtown is public property therefore use should be limited to the types of people I like and feel comfortable around. Until that happens my annual visits to downtown Eugene will have to come to a screeching halt.

*Casie Clausen
Eugene*

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