

EUGENE IS NEXT

Every year, Oregonians throw out 1.7 billion plastic bags. The city of Eugene estimates Eugeneans use 67 million bags a year. I have seen these bags make it into our communities and environment, floating around in the air or being snared in a tree or bush before they make their way out to sea.

Like so many people in Eugene, I enjoy the hiking, fishing and camping opportunities that Oregon provides and have enjoyed them my entire life. The damage that these bags cause is well known, as Portland and now even Corvallis have banned them; it's now Eugene's turn. It's a no-brainer to stop plastic bag waste. As Oregonians, we all have a stake in protecting our ocean and our coast, but it is the residents of Eugene, living in the second-largest city in Oregon, that can set the stage for the rest of the state. The citizens of Eugene must call their city councilors to let them know that they don't want another bag to disrupt the beauty of Oregon and all that it means to us.

*Evan Fessler
Portland*

WAR AND CLIMATE

Global warming is a reality to be taken

very seriously. Longtime climate change skeptics sound the alarm. Most of us are more careful in our energy use. Rising energy prices are getting the attention of those not inclined to conserve.

But nowhere, it seems, is the connection between waging war and global warming wondered about or discussed.

While many of us seriously struggle to use energy resources wisely, the beat of the military-industrial complex goes on. It's time to think about one of the really big elephants stomping on planet Earth.

Consider the amount of energy required — and therefore heat generated — to produce weapons of war; house and train military personnel; transport weapons and personnel by air, sea and land; operate military equipment; detonate explosives of all kinds; and provide short- and long-term medical services for personnel.

What are we as a nation prepared to do about this? How do we decide if a war is worth the cost in blood and treasure? How can we collectively make better choices to ensure a healthy and sufficient world for those yet to be born?

*Camilla Pratt
Eugene*

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