

COSTLY CREDIT CARDS

Many of us have been told that we use something every day because it is safer, faster and more convenient. There is a cost to this luxury of modern technology that needs to be realized. As a manager of a small business here in town I can tell you that at the end of the year 2013, our profits were cut down by the usual suspects — wages, energy expenses and maintenance — but what surprised me most was the charges incurred by customers using their debit/credit cards. In fact, we were charged nearly \$24,000 last year.

These cards are easy to hold and use but the benefits virtually end there. With technology advancing at a breakneck pace these cards make us more susceptible to identity theft and hackers. Also, I challenge you to have a faster transaction anywhere when using your card as opposed to paying in cash. Cash will win every time. Furthermore, all the lovely local businesses in town have to pay a hefty price for this so-called convenience. If you really want to support local and small businesses in the future, use cash only.

Why allow the banks to run off with even more of our money while doing a jumping heel-click of happiness while the ever-reliable greenback sits in our pockets? Cash is fast, cash is safe and cash saves businesses money.

I use my cards when I pay bills, get gas at Chevron or for the inevitable trip to Target to get cheap bedding. Otherwise, at my favorite local shops, I will always use

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



money, real money. This way as I shop local, I'm not lining the pockets of those who take so much already and would prefer a society where nothing "one of a kind" exists, nothing homegrown can be profitable and monopoly is the only game on the shelf.

Chad Hodgret Eugene

PURPOSE OF SIDEWALKS

Regarding Alley Valkyrie's Oct. 23 Viewpoint where she complains that merchants are misusing the cities "outdoor café" permit program, is she perhaps aware that the main purpose of sidewalks (note the sub word "walk") is to allow pedestrians to move from place to place on them? The misuse of them by vagrants, including

sleepers, boozers, druggies, panhandlers, buskers and the like is not a protected right.

The fact that businesses have to resort to a form of subterfuge illustrates the problem, which is that the rights of vagrants have, in the minds of some, superseded the rights of business establishments to conduct business.

If I owned a downtown business I would consider getting an "outdoor café" permit as essential as having lights and plumbing, even if I didn't set up so much as a chair on the sidewalk.

Karl Stout Eugene

TWISTED COVERAGE

I've noticed a trend in recent articles or the lack thereof in *The Register-Guard* that seems to support the timber industry. The one that is particularly interesting was covering biologist Tyrone Hayes' lecture Oct. 23 on his research and findings on the herbicide atrazine, developed by Syngenta and used by the timber industry. It is extremely biased and misleading. The title is "Controversy surrounds UO speaker." Near the end of the article it states:

Then Forbes magazine jumped into the fray, labeling the New Yorker article a "puff piece," and asserting that Hayes was "almost completely discredited (until) the New Yorker piece breathed new life into his fading career." The Forbes article said Syngenta had asked Hayes to "stop spreading lies." The UO will pay Hayes \$400 for his appearances, and will also cover all his expenses, including meals,

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