

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be type-written and of no more than 250 words. Send to: What's Happening Letters, P.O. Box 259, Eugene, OR 97440.

Meditations in Green

I've found Lois Wadsworth to be an intelligent, dedicated person who has done much commendable work in the past especially in regard to her cable TV broadcasts. However, her recent attempt as a book reviewer left me, as a Vietnam era veteran, greatly disappointed.

In reviewing *Meditations in Green*, she made some very questionable assumptions and statements.

First was her statement that since the U.S. pulled out, the stories with the most impact "have been written for films like *Apocalypse Now* and the *Deer Hunter*." One wonders where she was when *Fields of Fire* and *Rumors of War* or more recently, *The 13th Valley*, *The End of the Line*, and *Better Times Than These* came out?

Second, she displays a certain naivete in supposing any book could be "the definitive Vietnam war novel." That may be a pleasant fantasy for the literary world but in real life there is no such thing. War is far too complex and too titanic in scope to produce a definitive anything. What happened in A Shau valley was different from what happened in Pleiku or Khe San.

Third, I think most people are intelligent enough to figure out on their own without having to read a book that U.S. troops found the geo-

graphy of Southeast Asia to be "alien" or that the Vietnam War was "different from those which preceded it."

If Ms. Wadsworth wants to continue reviewing books about Vietnam, I suggest she stop trying to find the Vietnam literary equivalent of *Catch 22* (it's a different war, remember) and start reviewing books which reflect the diversity of experiences, rather than those which agree with her personal philosophy.

—David Isenberg

Thanks to SOS

This is a letter of appreciation to Barbara Kelly and all the friends and members of Save Our Ecosystem, a Eugene-based group. They are one of the groups who have worked very hard over the years to finally get the aerial spraying of pesticides banned in Oregon and Washington. Thank you again for your total commitment to a better way of life.

Shoshannah Thielle

Guatemalan Refugees

In the past two years, over 200,000 Guatemalan Indians have fled massacre and torture in their homeland, and have become refugees in Mexico. They find themselves in the very beautiful, but harsh Lacondon Jungle of southern Mexico. There in the rainforest they are attempting to reconstruct their lives, build shelters, and grow food.

In Guatemala the Mayan people are experiencing the ultimate tragedy. After 500 years of oppression by the Spanish, the multinational corporations, and the generals, they are now facing the extinction of their people. The refugees in the jungle camps are facing another form of

genocide. There, they wait, without permission to clear the land and cultivate their basic crops, for the meager handouts of the Mexican refugee commission. The people are living and dying on rations of a little more than one pound of corn per person a week.

A northwest support group left this area March 16 to transport 600 lbs. of vegetable seeds to the refugees; although large scale farming is not permitted them, the refugees can still put up small gardens around their huts. Another major focus will be providing 500 lbs. of high quality cotton thread to these master weavers, so that they can continue to create the cloth that is the hallmark of their culture. Public support is needed and encouraged. Tax deductible contributions can be made to McKenzie River Gathering, Guatemalan Refugee Seed Project, 454 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97402.

—Olive Bowers

Fairy Chains

Two days' wages
For maintaining my balance
At a stop sign, on my bike.
I failed to put my foot down
Perhaps not wishing to disturb
The dog and cat dozing in the street.
It was a peaceful scene
Leaning against my bike,
Waiting for my citation.
Fellow cyclists—sailing through
unimpeded—
Smiled at the benign sight
Of civic justice.
Now I always stop,
Foot to ground,
Regretfully unable to afford
The luxury of balance.

Two tickets in one week—thirty-five dollars each! Beware!

—T. March

For your information . . .

Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) invites you to attend a special luncheon in celebration of its 1984 Membership/Annual Giving Campaign. Featured guest Dr. Paul Olum, President of the University of Oregon, will be speaking on *Courage From the Middle* and sharing his belief that a courageous statement of moral conviction is not an extremist position. The luncheon will be at the Black Angus, Tuesday, April 3 at noon. Call 485-1755 for reservations before March 30—although lunch is optional.

Senior citizens from the Lane Council of Governments (L-COG) Senior Nutrition Program have created a celebrity quilt designed around the autographs of 33 famous personalities. Set in colorful calicos, each piece has additional embroidery depicting the activity and hobby for which each celebrity is best known. The L-COG Senior Nutrition Program exists to provide hot nutritious lunches to senior citizens in Lane County. Seniors aim to raise \$10,000 or more from the celebrity quilt drawing, all of which will go back into the Nutrition Program for operating costs. During the next several months, the quilt will be displayed throughout the county,

where tickets for the drawing will be offered. A \$1 donation is being requested. For further information, call 687-4038.

Saturday Market will open for its 15th season in Eugene on April 7. The Market traditionally operates from the first Saturday in April through the Christmas season, every Saturday, rain or shine in the Park Blocks at 8th and Oak. Saturday Market's colorful open-air marketplace operates for the purpose of providing people who make things by hand an outlet for selling their wares themselves, eliminating the need for a middleman, which in turn can keep prices affordable for items that high quality, unique and made with pride. For information on selling at Saturday Market, you can call their office at 686-8885. Fees for vendors are \$5 plus 10% of sales.

The Family Soup Kitchen is still happening every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Salvation Army building, 640 W. 7th. Families, couples and single parents with their children are welcome and the meal is free. If you are interested in volunteering or in donating food you can call 345-1493.



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