

# The biggest, bestest show in town

Tired of paying \$6 to see the latest movies at the 26-plex-cinemarama theater? Have you grown out of the "what's-your-sign" atmosphere of the local clubs? OD'd on Oregon's famous outdoors?

Here's the solution to your spare-time blues. It's dollar-for-dollar the best entertainment deal going. It is a must see. Two thumbs up. Four stars. The feel-good hit of the season. You'll laugh, you'll cry, it will become a part of you.

Sound too good to be true? It's not. It's the Springfield City Council meetings.

Other city councils have let their respective entertainment values slide by dealing with the hackneyed themes of city finances, police and fire, traffic problems, etc. It's all so gauche. I mean, where's the creativity?

The Springfield City Council should be applauded for taking a bold step to revive this flagging entertainment medium by introducing Councilman Ralf Walters — morality's clown prince — into the production.

And Walters' plan is brilliant. In just a few years, the councilman has lifted the council from the doldrums of governing into the limelight of political theater. And the recipe he followed is so simple.

By introducing his own misguided religious political agenda into this "pagan nation(s)" politics, Walters has created a surreal climate with all the elements of award-winning drama.

There are now clear and deep divisions in the production. Good and bad guys abound with little room to deal with those boring responsibilities of actually governing the community. By enabling the production to get the governing monkey off its back, Walters and his cronies have tried to set the council free to pursue some truly exciting fare — imposing one narrow ideology on society.



**Write Angles**

Pat Malach

The As-the-Council-Turns atmosphere began last year when Walters and two other like-minded councilmen plotted behind closed doors — via E-mail — to keep certain unacceptables off the city's human rights commission. Those pesky open-meeting laws can't stop a true zealot.

Now comes the OCA's anti-gay rights measures, and Walters has thrown his weight behind the witchhunt 110 percent. Walters has been orchestrating the climax of this plot with a genius only Hitchcock might have approached.

His next step was to appear on national TV with Phil Donahue and others to debate the OCA's statewide message of hate, intolerance and divisiveness. This was Walters at his dramatic best. While representing Springfield, Walters employed the tactics of interruption and intimidation to paint himself as a rude bully.

His performance was simply genius. How one man could act so evil and cold — with deep-set beady eyes peering down his nose at the unacceptables he had to share the stage with — is hard to comprehend.

Can you say Oscar? No human could really be so inhumane, but Walters pulled off the act. I haven't been so frightened since Anthony Hopkins was eating people in *Silence of the Lambs*.

And talk about versatile. Walters understands that a good drama needs that touch of humor between the grotesque. Without batting an eye, with no nod to the subtle touch of irreverence and irony, the man, who told a *Register-Guard* reporter that becoming an evangelical Christian had inspired him to get into politics and fight the "cultural war," told the *Donahue* crowd that the state should not legislate morality.

Bravo, Ralf! Encore! Such a light comedic touch. It was simply beautiful. And he said it with a straight face. Complete deadpan. Where was he when they were filming *Animal House* on campus?

And it doesn't end there. The Monday following the *Donahue* appearance might have been the best performance yet. During the public comment portion of the council meeting, person after person told Walters they were embarrassed and angered by his actions on TV.

After growing tired of being called to the carpet, Walters stormed out of the room calling his detractors "fascists," but only after threatening to vomit in one man's face — the original version of being ralfed on.

For those who have missed out so far, this is just the warm up. The good news is that Walters is running for re-election.

The council meetings are showing regularly on the first and third Mondays of every month with public input starting at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is tonight, admission is free, but you'll have to supply the snacks.

Pat Malach is editor of the Emerald.

**Springfield is doing all it can to change the way Americans view government.**

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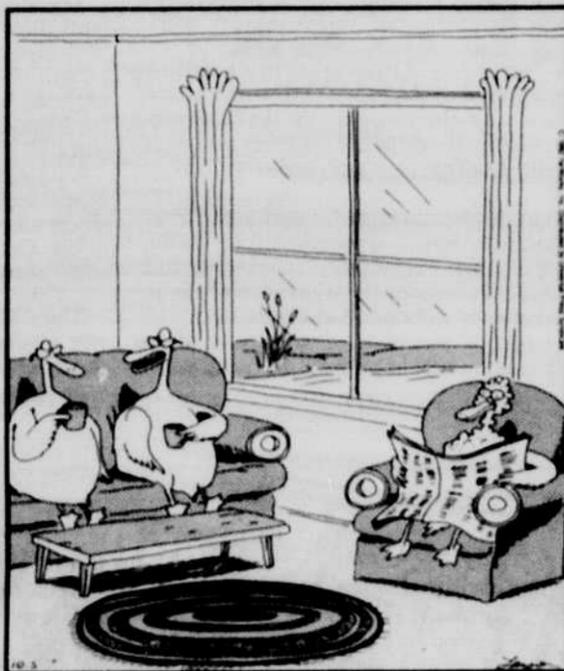
OCTOBER 19-24

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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

**THE FAR SIDE**

By GARY LARSON



"Oh, it's just Hank's little cross to bear — he's allergic to down and that's that."

**THIS WEEK**

**OCT. 5 - 9**



**emu Main Desk Store** 346-4362

<b>SATHERS CANDY ONLY</b> <b>39¢</b>	<b>WALL JUMP!</b> Coming Soon	<b>Tickets on Sale:</b> ♦ Dougie MacLean ♦ Aquarium Rescue Unit ♦ Moyer Theatres ♦ Act III <small>Student prices available. Call 346-4362 for more info.</small>
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**CULTURAL FORUM** 346-4373

**EVENTS CREW**  
Cultural Forum volunteers are needed for ushering, loading and security for the following Cultural Forum shows:  
October 11 Blind Melon & Now William  
October 17 Sugar Beets  
October 29 Dougie MacLean & Skye  
October 31 Aquarium Rescue Unit  
November 23 Youssou N'Dour  
Contact: Mark Klopfer 346-0635 Suite 2 EMU  
See you at the Friday Beer Gardens!

**University Scheduling Office** 346-6060

There are two major conferences scheduled in the EMU this week.  
**OREGON PLANNING INSTITUTE** - October 5-7, 1992  
Sponsored by Planning, Public Policy and Management  
**ORTESOL CONFERENCE** - October 9-10, 1992  
Sponsored by American English Institute  
Registration for both conferences will take place in Lobby II outside the EMU Ballroom.  
Student organizations are reminded to clear any outstanding fund raising reports for 91-92. Outstanding reports must be cleared prior to new reservations being accepted.

**UOP THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM** 346-4365

**The Art of Outdoor Photography**  
Four professional photographers will share their images and ideas on outdoor photography in an interactive format.  
**Thursday, Oct. 8th**  
**100 Willamette Hall**  
**Free!**

**THE NEAR SIDE** By Seemore Ducks

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