

CLINTON ON STEROIDS

Yesterday, I was hating Bush, and I read about how Bush was evil, and he said something really stupid, then he lied, and I thought, "Man, I hate Bush!"

Does this analysis seem limited? Can we really pin this whole apocalyptic mess on one man?

I remember Clinton bombing Iraq, claiming that Iraq was refusing inspections. In fact, Iraq objected only to U.S. inspectors, who were spying. Also, Clinton's administration supported the sanctions that killed millions of Iraqi children and elderly people. I remember Clinton exploiting a terrorist attack on our embassies to justify bombing a medicine factory in the Sudan, for which he had no international backing. He claimed it was making chemical weapons, but there was no evidence.

Familiar?

I also remember an unconstitutional Anti-Terrorism Act, which was backed by Clinton. I remember someone saying we didn't have to worry about global warming as long as we had trees, discouraging peace talks between the Koreans, supporting "welfare reform," and using a Social Security surplus to fake a balanced budget on which a very precarious economic bubble was blown.

The Bush administration looks much to me like the Clinton administration with the steroid injection of Sept. 11. The one good thing that could come out of this is understanding the inherent problems of capitalist "democracy." Instead, we take a simple-minded personal focus on Bush. Bush is just the next step in a process that's been going on for a long time. Getting rid of him won't stop it.

*Robert Slaughter
Eugene*

GETTING IN TOUCH

I think Florence needs some tai chi after so much bad blood over this casino issue. The word "tai chi" refers to a perfect balance between the yin and the yang, the two forces of the universe. People who practice tai chi perfect a series of motions that flow into one another very smoothly and gracefully.

Obviously, those on both sides of this heated casino debate have lost sight of tai chi, and the importance of class and good taste.

Think about how our town's founding fathers and their Native American hosts had indeed inspired faith, wisdom, tradition, and even tolerance. But now, community lead-

ers on both sides of this issue are the source of a bitter war of words, belligerence, and prejudice. What is needed today is for someone in this community to take the lead on this casino issue and show a little respect.

The message this community is sending to our youth, senior citizens, and visitors is not at all tai chi, but a cancer that, in the end, will be our undoing.

My hometown was Atlantic City, N.J. I left town when they passed casino gambling, so I know something about this issue. Casinos did a lot of harm in my former hometown, and the gambling also did a lot of good. At the end of the day, it was yin and yang — good and bad — and the locals learned to work together.

My hometown is now Florence, and I want this community to remember that there's a democratic principle of respect at stake here when it comes to this casino issue.

It's not as simple as yes or no. It's all about working together to make this town a better place for all who live here.

*Dave Masko
Florence*

TAX THE GREEDY

Concerning tax reform, I propose a "progressive sales tax" for Oregon, directed specifically at the methods by which the rich get richer and more powerful (far out of proportion to their potential or real social worth). These methods include, but are not necessarily limited to, interest payments of many forms; commercial gambling (including insurance); advertising (the industry of producing misleading information, as opposed to "publicizing" honest information); and war industries. It would ideally be "progressive" in two senses, one being that it would be designed to start small and grow each year for several years. The poor who aren't able to contribute can have hopes of improvement. The rich think they're already there.

By what measure can we claim that one person is more than, say, five times as valuable to society as the average person? I've heard there was a time when "income" meant money you didn't have to work for, and "income tax" was just that.

Yes, such a tax would drive some industries and money "sources," especially the most greedy, to other states. Can we really afford to continue their welfare payments?

*Dan Robinson
Eugene*

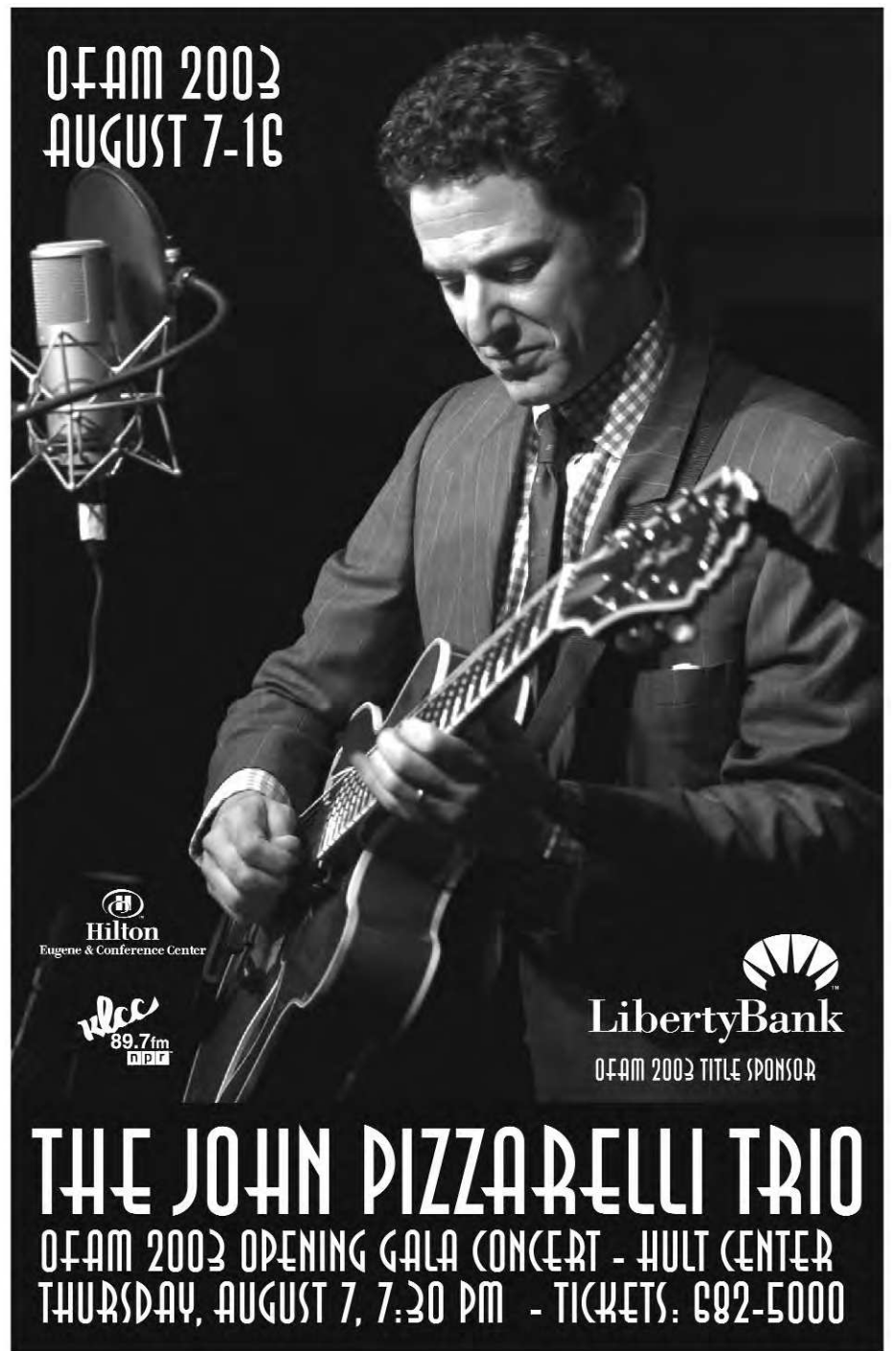


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