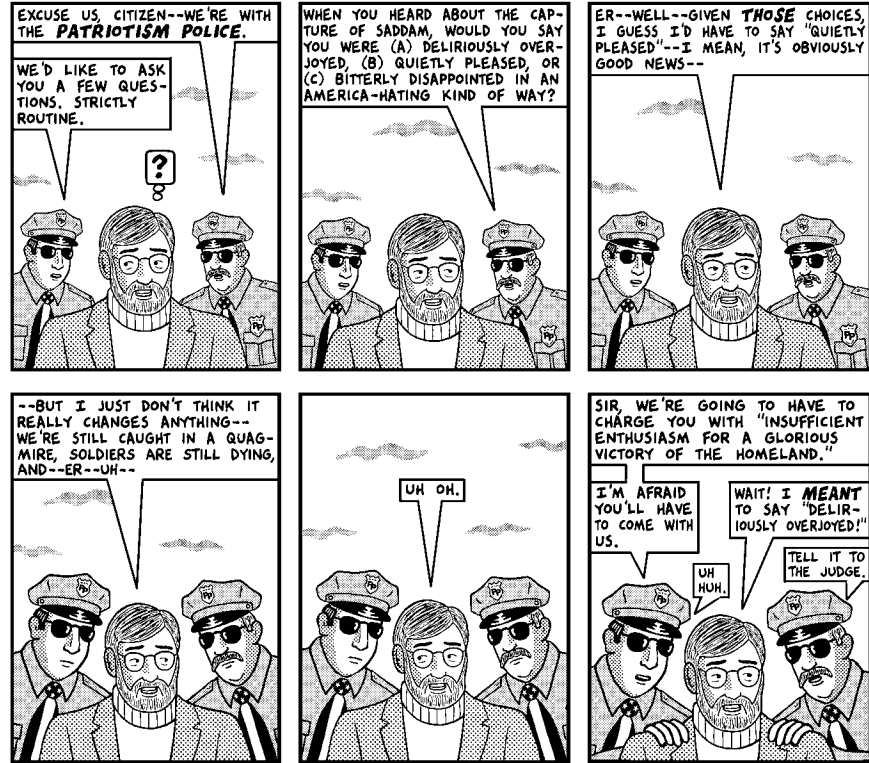


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs

HOLIDAY MARKET REPORTS GOOD SALES

Saturday Market's Annual Holiday Market is cooking along in its final days and will be open from 10 am to 4 pm Christmas Eve for last-minute shopping, food and live music. The free event is held at the Lane County Fairgrounds on 13th Avenue.

"Things are going great," says Holiday Market Manager Beth Little. "We did get off to a slow start, which is not unusual for us since we operate on more of a public marketplace model, but then it really has been moving pretty well."

Little says the market is not able to track dollar sales or attendance accurately from year to year, but she figures vendors are doing better than 2001 and 2002, but perhaps not as good as 2000.

Hundreds of vendors are represented at the Holiday Market and the Farmers Market next door at the Fairgrounds. Booths include everything from original art to clothing, toys and games, herbs and massage.

"We have a community that really appreciates both spending their money locally and supporting local, one-of-a-kind crafted items," she says. "We thank our core supporters — the folks who come every week, the folks who enjoy having a meal in the food court, who enjoy the free music and a place

that's welcoming."

Little says the Fairgrounds location near downtown has served the Holiday Market well over the years, and she appreciates Lane County commissioners who have rejected the idea of selling the Fairgrounds for a hospital site and relocating to the outskirts. "Goshen Holiday Market would not be quite the same thing," she says with a laugh. — Ted Taylor

CITY PONDERES STREET DIRECTIONS, GARAGE

A new Central Area Transportation Study (CATS) for downtown Eugene proposes making Willamette and five other street segments two-way and building a parking garage costing up to \$16 million.

Eugene made many of its streets one way a half century ago in an effort to make traffic flow more efficiently. But now city planners have found that one-way streets may force people to drive farther, increase congestion in some areas and make it hard to gain access to downtown businesses. To address the problem, the city has proposed re-opening six street segments downtown to two-way traffic.

The proposal includes Willamette Street from 13th to 20th avenues. Making the street two-way would also make it easier on fire trucks deployed at the new fire station at Willamette and 13th. The street could be reconfigured next year at a cost of about \$169,000 in changing stripes, lights and signs. The plan also proposes to add a bike lane on Willamette from 11th to 19th avenues.

Other sections to be converted to two-way



TAMARA SCOTT

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**LAST CHANCE FOR SLOGANS**

EW's contest to name a slogan for the city of Eugene is drawing to an end (see News Briefs, Dec. 11) and Dec. 24 is the last chance to submit entries. The contest is in response to the state's new tourism slogan, "Oregon. We Love Dreamers." Send your Eugene slogans to [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com) and please put "slogans" in the subject line, or drop off at EW offices, 1251 Lincoln St. Prizes will be awarded for the best slogans.

- Going caroling Christmas Eve downtown? Take a change of underwear and a toothbrush in case you get jailed for gathering without a permit under the new city ordinance that takes effect Dec. 24. A lot of folks are planning to gather at Cozmic Pizza at 4:30 pm Christmas Eve to go caroling in protest. If anyone wants non-traditional protest carols, check out tweaked lyrics from The Vernal Education Project ([www.vernalproject.org/other/rewrittencarols2002.pdf](http://www.vernalproject.org/other/rewrittencarols2002.pdf)). To the tune of "Let It Snow," sing "The Bill of Rights is dying/ And our freedoms, all goodbye-ing/ But so citizens won't react/ We'll bomb Iraq, bomb Iraq, bomb Iraq."
- Coming up in late January is a big event with long-term implications for Eugene. The city is planning a public design charrette, an "exploration of ideas for a civic center encompassing a new City Hall, police services building and other local government facilities." Dates are Friday afternoon and evening, Jan. 23 at the Public Library and all day Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Atrium Building. Architects, planning commissioners, Downtown Neighbors and others will be expounding lofty ideas. We're likely to see some inspired and visionary thinking at the charrette, but we also need to watch out for hidden agendas. Voters sent a strong message to the city in recent years by trouncing ballot measures to build an excessive and elaborate police headquarters. Will the new police digs be inspired by the new Ducks locker rooms at Autzen? We should also question whether we really need a new City Hall and police station. Would downtown revitalization be better served by spending half those urban renewal millions on something people would flock to and actually use, such as a big indoor community swimming pool?

- Ralph Nader's exploration of a presidential run 2004 is generating a lot of chatter, particularly on-line. One of the new websites that Dan Carol (Kumbaya Dammit) recommends is [www.repentantnadvoter.com](http://www.repentantnadvoter.com) and it includes an open letter to Nader. Here's an excerpt: "(Bush's) presidency has been so destructive that the premise of your campaign — that the two parties are controlled by the same special interests and are therefore identical — has been proven wrong. If Al Gore were our president, we can be sure that significant disasters would have been avoided, including the tax cuts for the rich, the near destruction of the U.N., the Iraq War, and more. And even worse are the initiatives that the Bush administration will likely roll out in the future."

- Congratulations to two local writers, Alison Cadbury and Mary O'Brien, for winning awards for literary non-fiction in the 2003 Oregon Literary Fellowships to Writers and to Publishers ([www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org)). Mountains and Rivers Press of Eugene was also a winner. Competition was stiff for the fellowships. Eighteen writers and five publishers were winners out of 258 applications. In her entry, O'Brien submitted columns she wrote for EW along with a Hells Canyon book project proposal. She recently had a column on risk assessment published worldwide by Rachel's Environment & Health News ([www.rachels.org](http://www.rachels.org)). O'Brien is currently working on alternatives for three Utah national forest plans.

- Former County Commission candidate Bill Fleenor of western Lane County has put together a web page that documents the voting record of Commissioner Anna Morrison. Check out [www.williamfleenor.com/ANNAWATCH.htm](http://www.williamfleenor.com/ANNAWATCH.htm) and find out what Anna's been up to in recent years.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com)

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