

**EFN SCRAMBLING TO MEET CHALLENGES**

Three weeks ago David Oaks, executive director of the international human rights support coalition MindFreedom (www.mindfreedom.org), found the electronic mailing lists the organization uses to communicate with members were not functioning. "We have a lot of lists," says Oaks, "including the Human Rights Alert, which connects more than 13,000 people around the world by e-mail."

The problem was with a hard drive crash at Eugene Free Network, MindFreedom's ISP. This crash affected not only MindFreedom, but other nonprofit organizations in Eugene. Oaks was concerned about the crash, but even more troubled that EFN had "no backup, no redundancy, whatsoever."

"Those lists," says Oaks, "represent hundreds of hours of work." Oaks was told by EFN Technical Manager Mike Jackson that nothing could be done to retrieve the information short of compiling what Oaks calls "Frankenstein-ed lists" from recent mailings.

Jackson says the crash occurred because of a "hardware failure." On top of this, he explains, EFN is still working to change over to a new Internet access company from their former provider, Rio, whose failed services for EFN resulted in problems with e-mail and Internet access. EFN is mired in a game of catch-up, where, says Jackson, "We're struggling now just to meet the needs of our paid services — dial-up, DSL and e-mail."

Paul Harrison of EFN's board of directors says EFN is "in a tight financial situation," and that the organization is "looking at all possibilities." He had no comment on whether those possibilities included selling the organization, saying only, "We're going to be sure to protect the interest of our customers to the best extent we can."

For Oaks, further discussion with EFN staff revealed that the mailing lists could be accessed from the crashed hard drive through a data retrieval process. Problem, says Jackson, is the costs start at about \$600 climbing to as much as \$2,000.

Says Oaks, "I'm sure that if we got a couple of nonprofits together, people would be willing to pitch in to help with the cost." Oaks feels like this may be part of the problem: EFN is not tapping into community feedback and support in this time of struggle. "How about some face to face meetings, getting community people together to talk?" asks Oaks. "I am concerned about what's going on at EFN/OPN. I respect this difficult time. ... Maybe it's time to turn to the community."

Oaks was able to speak one-on-one with Harrison, and was assured that EFN was "not kaput." They also discussed pulling together community nonprofits interested and able to help defray costs of the data retrieval process.

In an OPN meeting Friday, April 9, EFN will continue to discuss how to remain viable as Eugene's only local ISP. Says Harrison, "Members of the community who would like to help may do so through purchase of services through EFN or [monetary] contributions to Oregon Free Network."

—Bobbie Willis

**TIME TO FLUSH OUT THE ADMINISTRATION**

Patrice Dotson, 72, is a great-grandmother living on a fixed income, and she's scared. "Many of us are wondering what is going to happen to us in this economy," she says. "We watch our rents go up and our Medicare benefits go down. We watch our medical expenses rise and our medical insurance benefits lower."

Dotson, a former corporate salesperson, massage therapist, marketing director and medical technologist, wonders if anyone in the current presidential administration even cares about senior citizens.

"Who in the decision-making departments are on our side? Who cares?" she asks.

To make a statement, Dotson has turned an inspirational flash into a work of art she's selling. She's created T-shirts and buttons with the phrase: "Pull Cheney, Flush Bush. It's a healthy movement for America."

The words and a commode comprise the logo.

"It's what I feel I can do," says Dotson, adding, "It's miniscule but it's something."

Dotson sells the T-shirts for \$10 and the buttons for \$2. She sells out of her house and at Saturday Market, as a strolling vendor.

"People also get a chance to laugh a little because of my message ... and Lord knows, we all can use a good laugh these days," she says.

While sales contribute to her income, Dotson is also planning on donating a portion of the proceeds to the Democratic presidential front-runner.

"Perhaps if enough people pull and enough people flush, we can get things moving in a more healthy direction in the upcoming election," she says.

To purchase the T-shirts and buttons, call 344-4871 or find her at Saturday Market.

**MICHAEL DEAN**



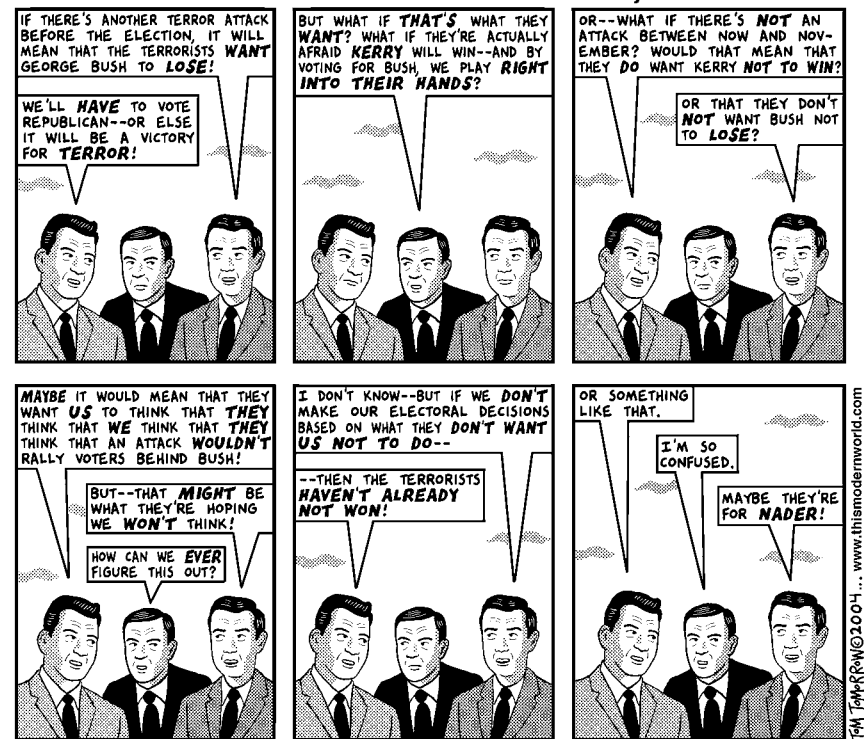
PHOTO BY HELLE ABILD

**PATRICE DOTSON**



**THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



**INDEPENDENT ART CELEBRATED AT DIVA**

An entire weekend celebrating independent art and film begins this Friday at DIVA, 110 West Broadway. The weekend kicks off Friday with a screening of Michael Dean's film, *DIY or DIE: How to Survive as an Independent Artist*, from 8 to 10 pm.

The film celebrates independent artists of many kinds — musicians, performance artists and computer savvy folk, and the do-it-yourself ethic. Los Angeles-based Dean will be on hand to answer questions and sing a few songs.

Dean will stick around Saturday and Sunday for workshops tailored to independent artists, musicians and filmmakers from the community. They will be held from noon to 4 pm each day.

On Saturday, Dean will explore "How to Produce Your Own Independent Film," and teach basic and intermediate video filmmaking techniques.

On Sunday, Dean will share his strategies, tips and tricks on getting worldwide exposure without a budget for music, art and film projects in the workshop, "How to Promote Independent Film, Music and Art."

"Dean is irreverent and entertaining, and his approach promises to be fun and informative for those involved," says DIVA program coordinator Carolezoom Patterson.

The cost for the weekend is \$40 with pre-registration or \$20-25 per session. Call 954-8373, or email carolezoom@mac.com. Friday night's film is \$3-5, ss.

**ACTIVIST ALERT**

• **David Cobb**, front-running candidate for the Green Party's 2004 presidential nomination is expected to attend the Pacific Green Party of Oregon's upcoming Eugene event from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, April 15 at the Strand, 8th and Charnelton. The event is billed as "an evening jam-packed with local and national activists and candidates in a friendly and informal setting." Participants will have the opportunity to meet candidates and also meet organizers working on cam-

**Happening people** BY PAUL NEEVEL

**LISA RIGNELL AND SHEA HARDY**

When Shea Hardy first met Lisa Rignell at a meeting of the Birth Companions Network last September, she learned that Rignell was coaching pregnant teens as a volunteer in Willamette High's teen parent program. An Elmira native and a 20-year employee at PSC, Rignell had experience helping with a dozen births in her own family. "I also wanted to do service work with kids," says Hardy. A South Eugene grad, she had recently returned after seven years of travel as a nanny. "We met and it just clicked," says Rignell. "I was the only one doing this work. Shea got the bright idea to expand it to other places." At the next BCN meeting, the pair recruited six more doulas (birth helpers) as volunteers. Their new project, Doulas Supporting Teens, has become an element of teen parent programs at Springfield High, Looking Glass, and the Opportunity Center, as well as Willamette. "We educate them on the birth process, nutrition, and breast feeding," says Rignell. "A big thing is birth control afterwards. None of our girls has gotten pregnant again." DST volunteers are currently coaching 14 pregnant teens. Five others gave birth last month.

