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THE WAIT IS OVER!
NEXT WEEK ...
CHOW!

Eugene Weekly's Restaurant Guide
Chow! features reviews of area eateries and a directory of Eugene and Corvallis restaurants.

Ad reservation deadline is Friday, July 9th by 5pm.
Contact Mark Frisbee 484-0519 ext. 28

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ruling class. Once again art was stolen from the people.

Before my grandfather's time everyone was allowed and encouraged to be artistic. I have seen their weaving, paintings on walls and bowls, their carvings, and heard their music, none of which could be sold to a doctor, lawyer, CEO or the state and none of which would gain them a grant to do art. Their lives were approached artistically and they paid their own rent.

The saddest thing about today's art is, like everything else, people have allowed it to be stolen through enslavement, concentration of wealth, and the elitism of self-indulgent modern "artists."

Ed Gunderson
Creswell

UNCOMPROMISING NADER

There have been few people in the history of this nation who have worked harder, given more, and achieved more to promote social justice than Ralph Nader.

I support him in this election because he is the only candidate who has taken an uncompromising stance in opposition to the butchery of thousands of unarmed men, women and children in Iraq. I had the honor and privilege of volunteering to work at the Nader nomination convention in Portland on June 26. Just being in the presence of well over 1,000 people who share my point of view was a thrill.

It was less thrilling to be in the presence of the 60 or so Kerry supporters who showed up in a deliberate attempt to sabotage our efforts to get Mr. Nader on the ballot in Oregon. I called the Democratic Party of Oregon to express my displeasure. Not surprisingly, the nice lady I spoke with hung up on me when I pointed out that disrupting other political parties' meetings was a tactic used by Hitler's Brown Shirts during the

Nazi's rise to power in Germany in the 1930s. I am mystified how anyone who identifies themselves as a progressive or liberal can support this resurgent fascism.

Bob Watson
Eugene

LIBERTY IS DEAD

The Supreme court recently made two decisions about the right to remain silent. They ruled in favor of Dick Cheney remaining silent, which was good for Dick because he did not want the people in California to know what his Enron buddies had planned to do to Granny Tillie's ass when her electric bill came. The other decision ruled that everyone else had to tell the police their name. That name when entered into the officer's Blackberry wireless device will give him access to the Matrix. The Matrix, a federally funded data base, would inform the officer who your relatives are, who lives in your house, the kind of car you drive or boat you own, whether you've been sued or, in one case, that you took your now ex-wife to a sex club. If you don't think it is right to sacrifice your liberties for "National Security," just remember what Dick Cheney said on the Senate floor the other day. "Go f*ck yourself!"

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

OVERCAFFEINATED

I am greatly offended by the 6/24 "Too Much Coffee Man" cartoon. In this cartoon, an angry man yells and then kicks his loving and receptive cat. I would ask, "Does this cartoon give kids and adults the idea that it's alright to kick an animal?" I would say yes. Perhaps you should think about the hundreds of animal abuse cases that are reported in Lane County. Why would you want to encourage this kind of abuse. Why is animal abuse funny? What next, rape jokes? Domestic abuse humor?

I call for the suspension or removal of Shannon Wheeler, the cartoonist, and an apology to the cool cats of Eugene. We love cats and to see them being abused is not funny.

James Bakerhall
Eugene

COMMON GROUND

In America, our bounty is in some ways our curse. In this land of plenty, we are not forced to work together out of necessity or thrift. Our ignorance of each other misleads us into assigning easy categorizations: "liberal" or "conservative," "radical" or "warmonger." We paint those who disagree with us into absurdly extreme corners in our mind, and never allow them to come out and be heard.

Reading letters to the editor, I often wonder whether Americans are increasingly paying lip service to the ideals of democracy. A democracy invites and tolerates the clash of opinions, and understands its obligation to search for common ground. Indeed, a democracy knows its very survival depends upon it.

A combustible mix of events is brewing: political party conventions, the release of the 9/11 Commission and Senate Intelligence Committee reports, a highly-charged theatrical release from a contentious director, the release of a loved and hated ex-president's autobiography, the Olympics in Athens, the growing torture scandal, and the possibility of worsening violence in the summer heat of electricity-insufficient Iraq.

The fire danger here at home is very real. If we allow ourselves to forget our common interests, our common purpose, and our common ideals, our nation could be engulfed by passions not seen since 1968. Finding common ground requires first searching for it, a responsibility that belongs to all of us.

Todd Huffman, M.D.
Eugene

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