

entire population of the Eugene-Springfield area, all marching 34-plus blocks of a five-lane city street, five hours of people walking past Madison Square Garden. The people involved were of all ages and ethnicities, some pushing their children in strollers or carrying them in backpacks, white-haired grandmother and grandfather types, as well as the youth of our nation, who will all be so affected by the policies of the Bush administration. United for Peace and Justice did a fantastic job of organizing these disparate groups, keeping up communication via cell phones along the way, and encouraging a positive and non-violent protest: they handed out signs, "I Say NO to the Bush Agenda,"

The police presence was overwhelming; it was obvious that they thought *we* were the terrorists. I saw one young man dragged off by about 20 police officers making this small arrest (he had no weapon, either). I spoke with numerous people on the buses and on the street, and all were consistent in their views that the Republicans do not represent what is best for our country.

It is heartening to hear of the voter registrations that have come pouring into the Lane County Elections office. Now we need to reach out to those we know in other states where the battle for the heart of America will be waged. Our lives, and those of our children, depend on it.

*Robin Winfree
Eugene*

SEXUAL ECONOMICS

Prohibitions against (sexual) porn and (sexual) prostitution, or many inhibitions about sex, never made much sense to me, or a lot of other people, maybe because we never took seriously the argument that they lead to other crimes. I guess it's up to me to say what seems so obvious. As with drugs, alcohol, gambling, tobacco for children etc., it's the prohibitions that increase the price, and therefore encourage criminals (whether legal or moral), including exploiters of women, to get involved. They also encourage kids to begin thinking there must be something especially interesting about related activities.

Prohibition of any kind automatically creates a class of potential "criminals." We should consider whether every prohibition is worth the cost. Maybe in some cases, creating prohibitions is the biggest class of crime, and we should be looking at how such "criminals" profit from it. Probably a few people would live wasted lives if we had fewer prohibitions, but the alternative is the many who do so in meaningless jobs enforcing them.

Look at all the legal ways we prostitute ourselves to businesses that don't really produce anything for the common good (except maybe a network that creates more "make-work" jobs rather than more accomplishments). What woman can say that she has never exchanged sex (or men exchanged expressions of love) for something they want in return? For social animals, life is full of such negotiations. Considering that the majority of sexual prostitution is by women, prohibiting just this kind of negotiation seems like high sexism.

*Dan Robinson
Eugene*

BAD SWAP

I was sickened to read that the proposed McDougal land swap for a city park was considered a "must do" and a "win-win" situation by our Mayor Jim Torrey. The park is being sold to the public as free, but it carries a large hidden price tag. The adjacent 120 acres of development will cost the taxpayers plenty, more than if the city purchased the land outright.

Suburban development as it currently happens is subsidized by taxpayers who shoulder the burden of extending infrastructure for these developments. Telephone, sewer lines, police, fire and schools are just some of the services we will have to provide for these profiteers. This does not begin to address the issue of transportation to this outlying area, increased traffic, road construction, and accompanying pollution.

At the same time, this fertile ground is forever lost as a secure food source for our existing population. I urge our councilors to see this deal for what it is: extortion. We can have a regional park and we can afford to pay for it without also paying for unsustainable suburban development.

*Kate Perle
Eugene*

FEMALE DOMINATION

In a town like Eugene (or Ann Arbor, Mich., Austin, Texas, or Athens, Ga.), a letter to the free weekly claiming that we live in a patriarchy is common enough. But to the extent that we're letter readers and not letter writers, we know that such letters are at best self-expression and at worst a hateful lie, no more valid than similar statements made by either half of the combatants in Ireland or Palestine or Myanmar.

In truth, feminism is only half the story, and the worst feminism is no more than bad math. We live under female domination from conception through physical maturity and under male domination thereafter. Feminism compares that first 15 years with the remaining 60 and concludes that men are four times as powerful as women — as if 15 years of women control was irrelevant.

In truth, the preponderance of men in corporate board rooms can't possibly change so long as the preponderance of women in elementary schools is taken for granted. One of the two female power centers is child rearing, and the currency is love. (If you think that men "choose" to live in poverty regarding that currency, then you're at best an intellectual and at worst a bigot.)

The other female power center is reproduction, confusion over which was the impetus for the most recent patriarchy letter. The need to motivate the male to bring his genetic material to the female's doesn't begin in the back pages of our beloved *Weekly* (or even in the checkout stands of Safeway). It begins when we're so systematically clothed as children in group response to overpopulation.

Overpopulation is the real problem, and the only problem, and as a male I decline to take more than half the responsibility for it. Matriarchy and patriarchy are in balance. Thus it has always been. Thus it will always be.

*Steve Downey
Eugene*



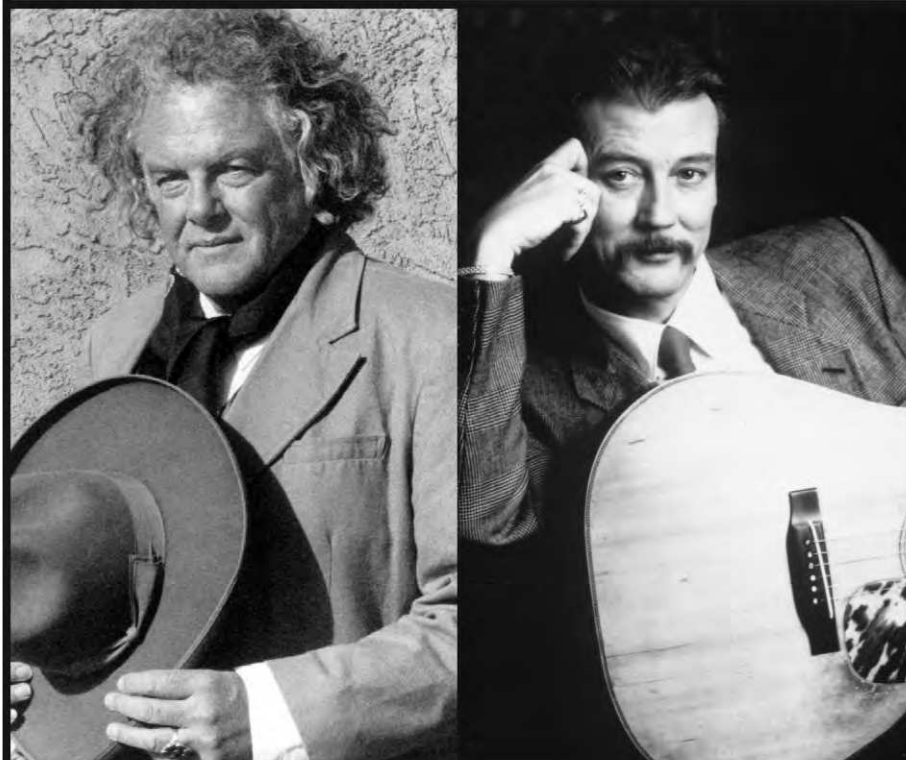
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