

GET ACTIVE

An open letter to all liberals, progressives, radicals and positive social change activists of Eugene: Now is the time to get active in our city government. Now is the time to make change. The fact that we have a potentially great mayor and progressive city council is NOT reason to relax and become complacent; it is time to fight for your vision of what Eugene could be and should be. Here in Eugene we no longer need to be on the defensive; we can push forward, be proactive. Let's learn one from the Republicans — when you are in power is the time to make change. It is the time to demand what we want, not ask for what we think we might be able to get.

Want an independent police review board? How about park land acquisition and some new bike lanes? New school programs or alternative education sources? Health care for the homeless and the poor? Stop sprawl by reforming the Planning Commission? Stop pollution? Save downtown? Hire a new city manager or police chief?

Now is the time to get it all. Now is the time to fight for what we want! Get active! And then we need to get some good people on the next County Commission!

Jim Flynn
Eugene

SIDEWAYS BUSH

The list of film titles vying for the Best

Picture Academy Award could easily have been not only Oscar nominees but also a commentary on President Bush's first term in office. To wit:

Finding Neverland — a fantasy story about WMD's in Iraq, smoking guns, and mushroom clouds told and retold by the White House troupe of storytellers Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rice.

The Aviator — a tragicomedy, subtitled "Mission Accomplished," featuring a faux-flyboy on an aircraft carrier whose memorable line in the film is, "Bring 'em on!"

Million Dollar Baby — Bush's Operation Iraqi Liberation (OIL) war that goes way over budget and needs to be renamed the *Trillion Billion Million Dollar Baby*.

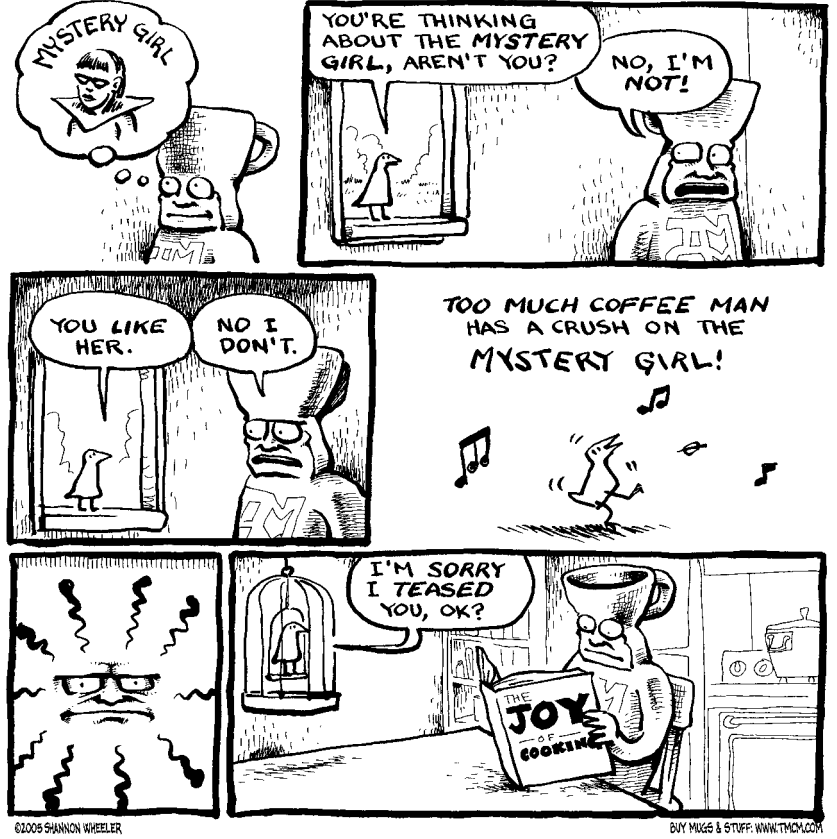
Ray — blinded by ideology, arrogance, and power, the president marches his troops into Neverland without a "ray" of hope for bringing them home for years and years to come.

Sideways — where truth, civil liberties, and the Geneva Conventions have gone under the Bush administration.

Unfortunately for us and the rest of the world, the bad political movie playing in the West Wing and East Wing of the White House will continue to run for another four years, long after the Academy Awards ceremony on Feb. 27 for the five films nominated for "Best Picture." Wake me when it's over.

Karen D. Myers
Eugene

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN BY SHANNON WHEELER



CHEMICAL TSUNAMI

For the last 50 years, a veritable tsunami of synthetic chemicals has flooded over us and the global environment. Toxics are found in our blood, body tissue, breast milk. At least 500 chemicals have been found in human

blood and body tissue so far. Many of these chemicals accumulate in our fat cells and then pass through a number of our organs when we use the energy stored in those cells.

Meanwhile, chronic diseases and conditions affect more than 100 million Americans

viewpoint BY VALDAS ANELASKAS

Karmic Justice

It's time to ponder the reasons for 9/11.

Shame on those pathetic "little Eichmanns" at UO who cowardly canceled Ward Churchill's lecture! Those who deny Mr. Churchill a forum are, no doubt, the kind of people who want us all to have filters on our minds to keep out "politically incorrect" facts and ideas so they can usher us in the New World Order, where no one will be permitted to say or write (or even think) anything that is not "politically correct."

They know that they can't maintain their control over the minds of Americans unless they can control the flow of information and ideas. And if they lose their control over what Americans think, they eventually lose their political power as well. They obviously do not believe in free speech. These are people who will tell you with a straight face that the First Amendment was never meant to protect "offensive" or "hateful" speech. That's why they become hysterical when someone calls spade a spade and states the truth loudly enough for others to hear. As the saying goes, "the truth is hate to those who hate the truth." Thus it seems brutally obvious to me that a person here in America cannot act honorably without being hated for it.

Professor Churchill is vilified and attacked because he speaks the truth and he was, yes, absolutely right saying that on Sept. 11, 2001, America got what it was asking for. Why do so many people hate America so much that they are even willing to commit suicide if they can take some of you with them? I've never gotten really clear and honest answer to such questions from the Americans. Instead, nearly all feel offended by these questions, pretending that it was an unprovoked attack. They look only for "politically correct" explanations — or at least, for explanations which are not "offensive." This is why there is ongoing effort to silence the dissidents like Churchill, to stifle those people who are asking inconvenient questions and thinking dangerous thoughts.

Well, the American people now are clearly faced with a choice. You can keep on behaving like ostriches with heads stuck in the sand, and as Churchill wrote, you can continue your slavishly obedient sheeplike behavior prattling on about "innocent Americans" being "the most peaceful nation on Earth" while silently endorsing the continuous violent crimes of the U.S. against the rest of the world. Or, you can try facing up to both the realities of America's shameful historical record and the responsibilities that history has bequeathed.



Churchill's truly brilliant book, *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*, is a precise chronicle and expertly written examination of America's monstrous behavior and murderous history — all its bloody crimes from Wounded Knee to May Lai, from Hiroshima to Fallujah. Churchill lets the facts speak for themselves. Of course, it's not the nation itself that is hated; it's American foreign policy. It's what the U.S. has done to the world.

"Our nation is the greatest force for good in history," proclaims Bush. But America's genocidal history makes it abundantly clear that the U.S. government always was and still is a major force for evil in the world. As celebrated British playwright Harold Pinter put it, America today is "the most dangerous power the world has ever known — the authentic rogue state, but a rogue state of colossal military and economic might."

Therefore, yes, 9/11 was nothing but a payday which was long overdue. In a sense, that was indeed like a karmic justice. Since the vast majority of Americans continue to support or at least tolerate the blatant evil of their government's crimes, you naturally should have been expecting some kind of retribution for that.

That's why I must agree with Ward Churchill's opinion that the people who have suffered and died in 9/11 attacks were not all totally innocent victims of an "unprovoked" terrorist assault. Let us not forget that the Pentagon is the seat of U.S. military power and that the World Trade Center was the premiere hub for the major players of U.S. global economic domination. In order for America to be "free" and prosperous, millions of human beings have suffered and died horrendously, and continue to do so in numbers far greater, every day, than were killed on 9/11.

America should not ignore the widespread hatred that is felt against it. Things have gone far too far. When people are pushed as far as they are willing to go, and when they believe that they have nothing left to lose, then they resort to terrorism, which is born of helplessness and despair.

Empires have always been hated. And it is appropriate to remember that quite a few hegemonic monsters such as this one have risen — and fallen — over the centuries. Mumia Abu-Jamal said, "What history really shows is that today's empire is tomorrow's ashes." Eventually all the chickens will come to roost!

Meanwhile, in solidarity with Ward Churchill, I would suggest that everyone simply boycott that upcoming conference on racism and diversity, hypocritical organizers of which had canceled his invitation.

Valdas Anelaskas is a Soviet dissident from Lithuania currently living in Eugene. He is the author of Discovering America as It Is (see www.bookmasters.com/clarity/b0015.htm), a book he wrote with assistance from Ward Churchill.