

The gay community will step up and rise to the occasion, but this time we won't be as nice as those rioters in the Greenwich Village back in 1969. Note this: The GMF (Gay Marriage Front) is on its way, full throttle. For certain, that Bush is going to be *?#@ing in his pants.

Brian Peterson
Eugene Queer

FAKE MEAT DIET

In response to the "Soy is not the answer" letter of Tom Schneider (2/3), I agree that it is not desirable to eat a diet dominated by soy protein isolate. However, I disagree with Schneider's implication that the only alternatives to a diet of fake meat made from soy would be eating either factory farmed animals or free range animals who (briefly) "enjoy grass and sunshine."

People who choose not to eat animals can enjoy a very healthy diet of unprocessed foods such as beans, grains, nuts, vegetables, fruits, etc. Many vegetarian cookbooks are available, and websites such as www.vrg.org offer a wide variety of meatless recipes.

Local farming doesn't negate all the disadvantages of eating meat, such as saturated fat. Also, even being slaughtered "humanely" seems somewhat grim.

Susan Rogers
Eugene

LEARNING BY DOING

An open letter to Dan Carol: In your (3/3) comments about rebuilding labor, you painted a bleak picture of people not venturing out of their homes and apartments. And you singled out homeschooling.

Yes, Mr. Carol, just what *do* those homeschoolers do all day? Would you recognize them if you saw them in the library, museums, parks, and other gathering places of our town? Homeschoolers meet and learn with people of all ages and backgrounds. Homeschoolers learn together in neighborhoods, churches, Scouts, 4-H, community sports teams, community theater, in music, dance, gymnastics or art classes, occasional school activities, and homeschool activity clubs.

The popular homeschool periodical *Growing Without Schooling* states: "Studies have shown that homeschoolers have a more positive self-concept than their schooled peers. They are more likely to have friends of different ages and to be free of the cliquish, exclusive behavior so common in school." www.holtgws.com/faqabouthomescho.html

Your article gave a gross misrepresentation of what homeschooling is really about: getting out into the real world and learning by doing. May I recommend alternative activities worthy of your disdain? Of note is the growing number of people choosing electronic chat rooms instead of real conversation, and television

viewing instead of gathering, reading, or physical activity. These two activities seem to directly oppose the goal of local community building.

Diane Nahallage
Eugene

DENTAL TRAGEDY

"So you're from New York?," asked the dentist.

"How'd you know? My accent?" I replied. "No, I just had to look inside your mouth. Your teeth are almost perfect." The dentist went on to tell me of the stark difference between those who grew up with fluoridated water and Oregonians, who he said sadly, have not.

The dentist described how "tragic" it was seeing children and adults with teeth so decayed that even children had to have teeth pulled. And that some wouldn't smile because they were so ashamed. He said that fluoridating water would save so much money and pain that it was almost criminal we weren't doing it here in Oregon.

Some say, why fluoridate when you can go to the dentist and have fluoride applied. Even if it were as effective, many people don't have the money or insurance to pay. That's why hospital emergency rooms are for too many the only hope for any treatment.

Fluoridating water is not some new, experimental idea. Millions of people for more than 60 years, in cities both large and small, in states blue and red, are benefiting from the overwhelming advantages of fluoridation.

My conversation with the dentist was 35 years ago. Today, access to dental care is even more limited. Arguments against fluoridation just don't hold water.

Fluoridation will go a long way to solve a serious and costly public health problem. The time is now.

Leslie Weinstein
Eugene

THE FOUR D'S

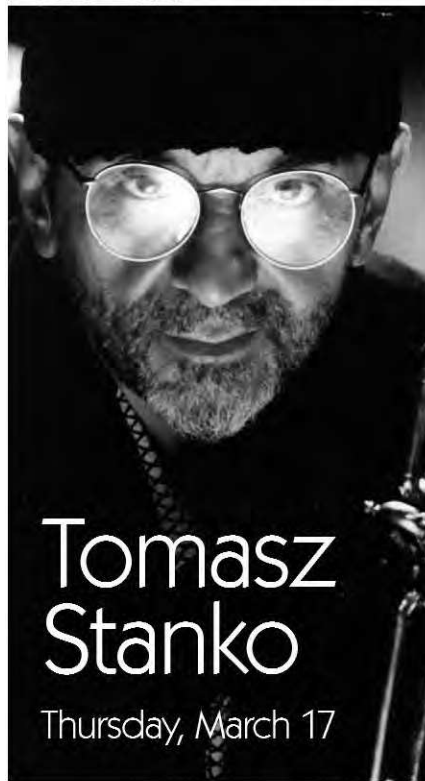
Andy Singer's NO EXIT cartoon (3/3) was SO right on! Winston Churchill said, "the bird of war is the stork," while Chairman Arafat spoke of the "war of the womb."

My own moniker for this is the "4-D's: the Diabolical Dynamics of Differential Demographics." Whatever else is going on as undercurrents to conflict in the world, much of which involve issues of social and economic justice, the 4-D's just keep on cranking on and cranking out. Just look at the burgeoning populations in portions of Africa, the Middle East and Asia — so many people, especially young men, with little opportunity for constructive lives.

I wish that Dr. Rice and her counterparts across the globe would write into their so-called "peace agreements" the need for con-

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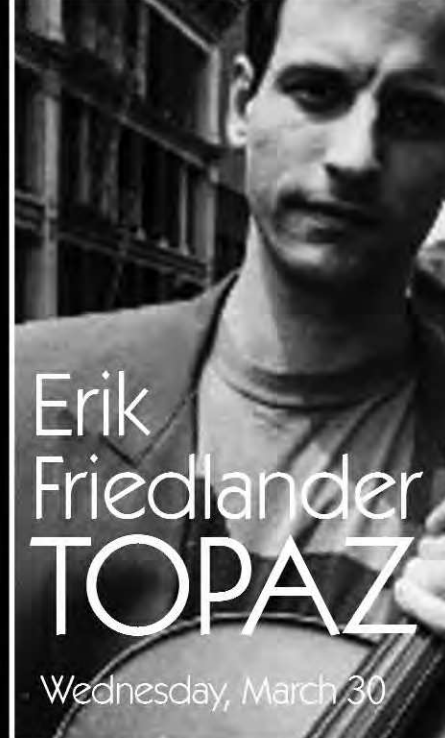
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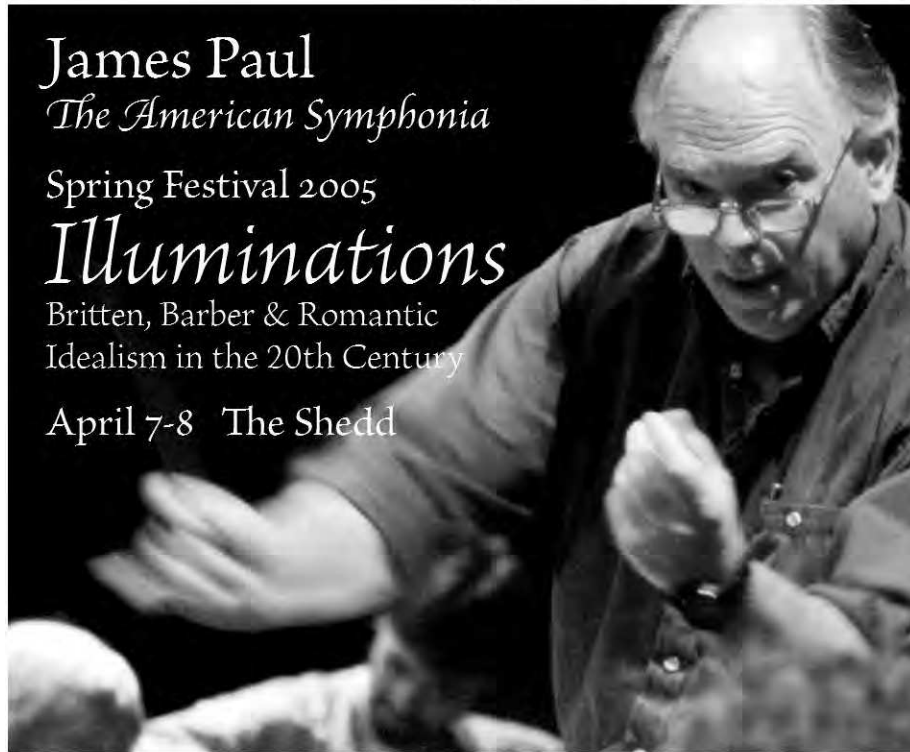
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