

force it upon an audience in a self-righteous way. Her emotions of anger were apparent, but did nothing to help the build the spirit of community.

Kimberly Howard
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the record, we also received a letter (not intended for print) praising Jules Graves for her patience in dealing with a rude and noisy crowd that night.

EL NORTE INSIDE

What a delight it was to open the (4/7) *Weekly* and discover *El Norte* instead of an advertising insert! I read the entire paper immediately!

I hope increasing its circulation will help *El Norte* grow. I'd love to see more than four pages in the future! Once again, thank you, *Eugene Weekly*!

Sabrina McNamara
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Not every paper last week had the Spanish-language newspaper inserted. In an effort to support *El Norte*, *EW* provided for the printing and insertion of 8,000 copies that were delivered downtown, in west Eugene and Springfield. Another 2,000 copies of *El Norte* were distributed to the regular drop sites around town.

MORE RADIO CRAP

Over the past several years, there's been a lot of talk about how corporate ownership of TV networks has negatively affected the objectivity of television journalism. The reasoning goes: GE owns NBC; Disney owns ABC; and Viacom owns CBS — how can we therefore expect the affected news programs to report fairly and accurately on issues that concern those corporations specifically, and big business in general?

Fair question. A similar one might be asked, right here in the southern Willamette Valley, only in this case the culprit is radio. I don't mean KPNW or KUGN; their doctrinaire rightist pap is well-established and expected. No, as I see it, the problem is with the much-applauded new Air America affiliate KOPT, which sadly seems to be headed in a similar direction.

There was plenty of hoopla when Eugene/Springfield's "own progressive" station began broadcasting local programming a few months ago; but almost immediately it shifted right into "standard radio crap," i.e. giggly morning show hosts going on and on about their kids and dogs while lobbing softball questions to area leaders. Trite, timid and tepid; not, I think, the hard-hitting "red meat" so many of us had hoped for.

But, it's hard to expect otherwise, given that the owner of KOPT is Suzanne Musumeci, wife of notorious hyper-developer and chief of the Gang of 9, John Musumeci (*R-G*, 11/9/04). And the claims of

a "firewall" between ownership and content (*ibid*) are no more believable in this case than in the above.

Bill Smee
Springfield

FOOL ME ONCE ...

At a recent townhall meeting (open to everyone, by the way — blue, red, or rainbow), Congressman Peter DeFazio described how President Lyndon Johnson used Social Security to hide the costs of the Vietnam War by funding it with the system's tax surpluses. It struck me that President George Bush is again using Social Security to hide the costs of war, this time by diverting attention from a real financial crisis to an artificial one.

There is no Social Security crisis. Any potential financial problem down the road can be easily solved — as Congressman DeFazio suggests — by eliminating the arbitrary ceiling on taxable wages over \$90,000 which unfairly allows the "Haves" to pay a lower rate of taxes than the "Have Nots." There is a real financial crisis, however: unchecked spending by the Department of War.

We spend more on our military than all of the armies in all of the countries in all of the world — combined! While Bush keeps us busy shopping in the malls and fighting artificial crises, his administration keeps busy starving the beast of social spending while emptying our country's checkbook for the military.

The traveling exhibit honoring fallen U.S. military personnel and Iraqi civilians reminds us to keep our "Eyes Wide Open." Bush also once admonished (or tried to), "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice ..."

Benton Elliott
Eugene

MEDIA OBSESSION

It seems strange to me how the U.S. major media obsesses so about how the nearly dead die as in the cases of Terri Schiavo and the pope. There seems to be a disconnect between the realities of how the brain/body work together to sustain the thoughtful interactions of people, and what the controlled media has to say on the subject.

Heather Ladd's (3/31) letter partially explains this situation: When the rich and famous control the major media, really weird propaganda smothers the facts of our lives with the blubber of their fatuous mind-controlling statements. Only believe big U.S. media when it makes common sense.

Bob Saxton
Eugene

UNRISEN

A friend of mine (a Jewish gentleman and quite the wag) told me that, in response to re-

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The Shedd Institute



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Thursday, April 14
plus 2 workshops
Friday, April 15



The High Street Singers
Wednesday
April 20

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05.15	Keola Beamer
05.18	Eskelin & Courvoisier
05.25	Audra McDonald

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Thursday, May 5



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HOW TO REACH US BY E-MAIL:
(letters): editor@eugeneweekly.com
(advertising): ads@eugeneweekly.com
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(circulation): distribution@eugeneweekly.com

Eugene Weekly • 1251 Lincoln Street • Eugene, OR 97401 • 541.484.0519 • fax 541-484-4044