

mainstream, white feminists and even black rights activists for failing to include black women.

Arguing that class and race are integral, inextricable pieces of the feminist debate, hooks is well known for her critique of the feminist movement, in particular Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*. In naming her first book after early feminist Sojourner Truth's famous speech, in which Truth challenged the middle and upper class definitions of womanhood, hooks reframes the debate from the very start.

She challenges many of the assertions made by mainstream feminists, arguing that the issues they raise are specific to white, middle-class women. For example where Friedan argued that women needed to leave the domestic sphere and get jobs, hooks points out that lower-class women have always had to work. Hooks was one of the first feminists to challenge conventional gender roles within the context of race and then to broaden the discussion and look at those roles as a microcosm reflecting the racism and sexism of the mainstream.

In more than 25 published books and countless articles, hooks forces readers to connect seemingly separate issues, and systematically attacks and debunks myths and stereotypes of both black women and men. She strips away the cultural posturing of seemingly complex issues, baring the interconnected bones. For example, in a 1994 article on rap, she wrote: "gangsta rap does not appear in a cultural vacuum, but, rather, is expressive of the cultural crossing, mixings and engagement of black youth culture with the values, attitudes and concerns of the white majority."

Though hooks (who doesn't capitalize her name) is one of the most independent thinkers of this century and a leader in black feminist theory, she has been denied many of the accolades other less controversial writers and theorists have received. Often sought by mainstream media for short quips and quotes, the black feminist take on various subjects, her insistence on tying issues of race together with class and gender often results in concepts that are more sense than spectacle, more reason than rage.

bell hooks opens the 11th Annual Women of Color Conference at the Erb Memorial Union, 1222 E. 13th St., with a lecture titled "Conversations with bell hooks," 6 pm, Friday, Feb. 3. \$7 for the general public, \$5 for students. For more information call 346-4095.

DOWNTOWN POCKET PARK

When the city ripped out the downtown pedestrian mall along with its large trees and playground, downtown lost a major chunk of parkland.

Now the development partnership of Tom Connor, Don Woolley and Opus Development (CWO) have proposed a \$165 million redevelopment of the area, but plans don't include a public park. The development does propose a green roof with plants atop a parking garage, but it's unclear whether that will be open to the public.

Local landscape architect Jerry Diethelm said he likes the idea of the green roof, but says the city and developer should do more to create the "community places, not just private places" a thriving downtown needs.

Diethelm proposes that the redevelopment downtown include "a little pocket square" across from the downtown library at 10th and Olive. The space could offer a sunny place with benches and perhaps a small fountain. Residents and workers in the adjacent planned Oregon Research Institute (ORI) building and condos could eat lunch and look down on the pleasant park, Diethelm said.

With the existing bus station and library and proposals for the ORI building and CWO movie theater in the Atrium at the intersection, "that's a perfect place for some public open space," Diethelm said. "Things are going to center around that space."

The pocket plaza could also help the city's goal of encouraging more people to live downtown, Diethelm said. "If you're going to live downtown in higher density you need some amenity to go with that."

The pocket park faces the same perceptions of attracting loitering kids that helped kill the downtown mall park. The problem with the pedestrian mall was "nobody lived there to claim it," so the street kids did, Diethelm said. But with CWO proposing a major redevelopment of the area, Diethelm said the city shouldn't fear the park, since it will be taken over by downtown residents, shoppers and movie-goers. — Alan Pittman

EUGENE Doves DIS HILLARY

Peace activists from Eugene were among those who heckled Sen. Hillary Clinton during her Jan. 27 speech to Democratic support-

ers at the Portland Hilton. Clinton, a top candidate for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, appeared as part of her 2006 Senate re-election campaign.

Several minutes into Clinton's speech, eight Eugeneans and five Portlanders in the audience peeled off their jackets to reveal shirts with pink slips. "Cut off the funding. Bring the troops home," they chanted. The New York senator continued her speech, apparently unfazed, as security removed the Eugene protesters from the ballroom.

The activists included members of the anti-war group Code Pink and the Eugene Civil Resisters League. League members had also confronted Sen. Ron Wyden about his ongoing votes for war funding during his visit to the Eugene City Club on Jan. 13.

Clinton voted to authorize Bush to invade Iraq, and she continues to vote for war funding. During her Portland speech, she said that despite the bad decisions that led to the Iraq War — "the misinformation, the incompetence, the poor planning, the arrogance" — a quick troop withdrawal could make "a bad situation worse."

According to an October 2005 CBS News poll, 55 percent of Americans think that the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq. Sixty-four percent think that the war isn't worth its costs, and 59 percent think that U.S. troops should withdraw as soon as possible.

"I think that any Democrat who continues to vote to fund the war will be hurt by that action," said Code Pink member Aria Seligmann, who participated in the Clinton protest. "The majority of Americans are adamantly opposed to the war, and they're no longer willing to accept the vast amount of dollars that are going to fund this war."

Florence veteran Jim Rassmann, who took a prominent role supporting John Kerry in the 2004 presidential campaign, agrees. "I think [Clinton] is pandering to conservative votes by saying that we should stick it out," he said. "I'd like to see a candidate who acknowledges the

mistakes that we've made, and who will extract us [from Iraq] as soon and in as safe a way as possible." — Kera Abraham

PUBLISHER WINS CASE

Embattled publisher Kris Millegan of Walthamville sent a message this week that his company TrineDay and author retired Lt. Col. Daniel Marvin were found not guilty of libel and defamation in a South Carolina U.S. District Court.

"This verdict was reached after extremely long and complex jury instructions by Federal Judge David Norton," says Millegan. The jury was unanimous after two hours of deliberations, he says, and "the jurors all asked to have their exhibit books signed."

A counterclaim against the plaintiffs was also decided by the jury, but not upheld. Millegan says he hopes through the courts to recoup some of his \$100,000 in legal fees.

The \$700,000 suit was filed by seven men who served with Marvin in Vietnam. They objected to his book, *Expendable Elite: One Soldier's Journey Into Covert Warfare*, saying the book provided a "false, libelous, defamatory, embarrassing and humiliating" account of their activities in the war.

"We won the case," says Millegan. "Our defense was truth."

The plaintiffs, backed by the Special Forces Association, have threatened to appeal the verdict, says Millegan. — TJT

HOME SHOW A HOME RUN

The first Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show at the Fairgrounds last weekend exceeded all expectations, says Karen Ramus Show Producer Berg Productions, Inc. "The public loved it. The vendors loved it. The show was a home run," she says.

"We raised more than 10,500 pounds of food for FOOD for Lane County. We ran out of programs in the first six hours. Vendors ran out of products within two and three hours after opening," she says.

Ramus reports record sales in booths and standing room only in most seminars. She says almost 300 people showed up for a talk by architect Nathan Good, and "even solar talks had 70 people in them."

Businesses are signing up for next year's show slated for Jan. 26-28, and "are all requesting bigger spaces." Next year's show will be expanded to three days to accommodate the crowds.

For more information, visit www.eugene-homeshow.com or call Berg Productions at 484-9247. — TJT

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In last week's CHOW! story on King Estate's expansion we mentioned a display of enlarged historic photos. The correct source of the photos is the Lane County Historical Museum.

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

AMY PINCUS MERWIN

As a student activist in her suburban Milwaukee, Wisc., high school, Amy Pincus protested the 1970 Kent State shootings a few days before graduation, then spent the summer in Boston, working at a free school to educate people about the

war. In the late '70s, she used a small inheritance to launch the Wisconsin Community Foundation, a funding source for social-change organizations, on the model of the McKenzie River Gathering. "They've just celebrated their 25th anniversary," she notes. After 10 years of rural life on 40 acres in Deadwood, Ore., she and husband Steve Merwin moved to Eugene in 1990 to further his education and that of their two children. For five years in the '90s, she edited and published the monthly journal *Healing Currents*. "Each month had a topic and articles by people with progressive solutions," she says. "The magazine supported itself but not me." Merwin's goal in the new century is to provide diversity of opinion on the public airways. Catch her interview program "InForm Radio," on the air since 2002, from 6:30 to 7 pm Mondays, and her new call-in show, "InFormed Talk," from 5 to 6 pm Fridays, both on KWVA, 88.1 FM.

