

been to continue with traditional fire bombing. More people were killed in one night in Tokyo with fire bombs than were killed with the A-bomb. Continued firebombing would result in large casualties.

A disproportionate response could have been to starve Japan into submission. Their merchant fleet had been sunk. Starvation would take time and result in tremendous casualties.

The chosen disproportionate response: Drop the bombs and provide Japan a "face saving" excuse to surrender. It was an immediate end. It killed thousands, but it may have saved millions.

General Forrest remarked that "War means fighting and fighting means killing." Once we have crossed the Rubicon, the rest is just detail.

Certainly it is best to be slow to anger, and we all hope that what we hold dear to us is never threatened. There is value in memory, prediction of behavior, negotiation and action.

Warren Walsh
Eugene

WHO IS THE ENEMY?

"We've met the enemy and it is us," said Pogo. An estimated 20,000 humans die daily from preventable disease and starvation. As if there wasn't enough violence, death and suffering in the world (for example: AIDS epidemic in Africa, starvation in Darfur, vicious killing in Iraq and Afghanistan), now there is another war in Lebanon and Israel-Palestine.

Who's to blame? Depends on whom you ask. Here are a few of the usual suspects: weapons manufactures; arms dealers; war profiteers; politicians willing to send our children to kill and to die, young people willing, persuaded or coerced into violence; the fearful; the covetous and greedy, that is: those who desire control of others' resources; those who gain power by taking others' property or assets; last but not least, us, the public, who willingly acquiesce, approve and finance a war machine that can take life so casually, as if it were some kind of "reality" TV.

For the desensitized public, distanced from the horror, the reality of war is sanitized. Just a few missiles and bombs falling on your own house or a few of your own family ripped to shreds could change such an insulated perspective.

People of professed "religious faith," whether Christian, Jewish or Muslim, often claim that this or that war is necessary because God says it is. Or we "must kill them before they kill us." Or "better to fight them over there than here."

Jesus said "blessed are the peacemakers." Perhaps they realize there is no there, only here, and no them, only us.

Tom Hinkle
Springfield

AGHAST, ME HEARTIES

Debra Merskin, in her opinion piece (8/24) about pirates, is apparently aghast that pirates are celebrated these days. She wishes we would consider how awful pirates really were.

Good grief. I hope Ms. Merskin has weightier things to work on at her UO post than this. Of course we all know that pirates were mean and killed people.

So what? We don't want to be real pirates. We want to have some fun, see a good movie, ride on the Disney ride and swashbuckle around the house. We don't need some know-it-all, which Eugene is absolutely full of, to tell us that our fun is somehow wrong.

I suspect that Ms. Merskin is one of those folks who protest the selling of toy guns and soldier toys each Christmas. Do us a favor. Leave us alone. We're just playing.

Arrrrrrrrrrgh!

Randy "No Beard" Kolb
Eugene

PLUNDER, MY ASS

Oh come on, lighten up! Pirates are cool.

Nathaniel Embry
Eugene

PERS HIPOCRISY

Lane County residents should be aware that the proposed Lane County income tax fully exempts all PERS retirement income from this tax. This is spelled out on page 29, under "Item 4.522 Deductions" of the PDF document titled "A Proposal for Funding Public Safety." See www.lanecounty.org/incometaxordinance.htm

Regarding this particular matter, we ought to expect better from the Lane County commissioners who themselves are public employees. They are charged in their actions to fairly represent, seriously consider and equitably balance the interest of all Lane County residents, not just those of public employees.

To be fair to all county residents, either all retirement income should be subject to this tax, or if any retirement income is to be exempt, then all retirement income from all sources, public, private and otherwise, should be exempt, not just that retirement income received by Oregon's public employees.

Whether you are retired or not, whether you are a public employee or not, this one extremely inequitable provision should absolutely justify your "no" vote on the currently proposed Lane County income tax.

John McVickar
Eugene

GOT FLOOR?

I never thought I would be so consumed with floors, but then I became a dancer. Dancing requires several things, one of which is a floor to dance on. While some

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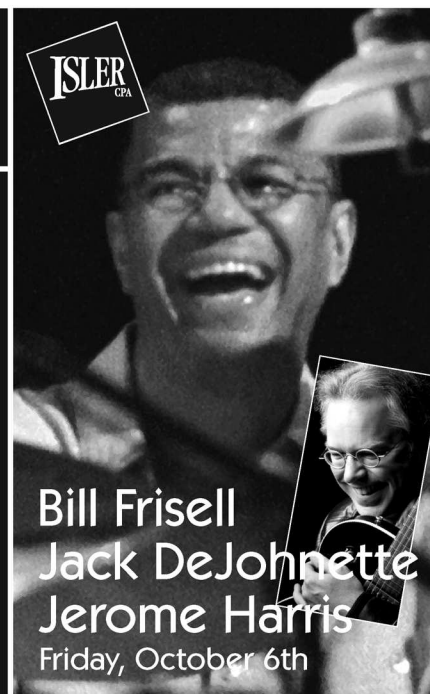
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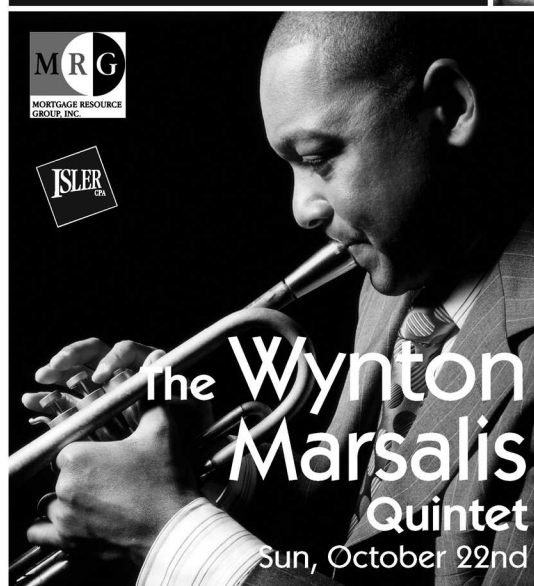
Upcoming Concerts

- 10.06 Bill Frisell-Jack DeJohnette-Jerome Harris
- 10.12-21 The Emerald City Jazz Kings: A Fine Romance: Astaire, Rogers & RKO
- 10.18 Badi Assad
- 10.22 Wynton Marsalis Quintet
- 10.23 Natalie McMaster
- 10.28 Herb Ohta Jr. & Daniel Ho
- 10.29 Tiempo Libre
- 11.08 Masters of the Celtic Harp

— Visit www.theshedd.org for updates —



Bill Frisell
Jack DeJohnette
Jerome Harris
Friday, October 6th



the Wynton Marsalis Quintet
Sun, October 22nd



Badi Assad
Wed, October 18th

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-Isaac D'Israeli

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