

The Oregon Humanities Center presents the
2006-7 Robert D. Clark Lecture in the Humanities

A lecture by author David James Duncan



Why the American West

needs the *Asian East*

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

7:30 p.m.

180 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall

1415 Kincaid Street, University of Oregon

This lecture is free and open to the public, and a book signing and sale will follow. Seating is limited to 350. For more information, or for disability accommodations, please call (541) 346-3934.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEFINING WHOLESOME

Last week's *EW* exhibited an interesting confluence of three striking issues: objection to the use of the word *fuck* in the newly carried Savage Love column, an objection to perceived censorship of the f-word in a choice interview quote regarding the Lord Leebrick Theatre and a reader objecting to *EW* sexual content after being hit with spam phone calls.

Fast on the heels of Coming Out Week, and with these issues mingling in my mind, I can't help but thank the *EW* for conducting your business the way you do. Our sexuality, and our language, can not be contained in a small box labeled Average or Wholesome. I am an ardent user of the f-word who does not believe its use to be synonymous with bad taste. I also am a sex-positive reader who thanks you for running escort ads and sexual material such as the Savage Love column, examples of sexuality that may be out of my realm of sexual experience. They serve as my personal reminder that the human experience is vast, and I am not one to judge another's experience, nor define what is wholesome or average for others.

You said it best in last week's Slant: "We do not see sex between consenting adults as a moral issue, and teenagers should not be kept in the dark about the diversity of sexual experience."

Jocelyn McAuley
Eugene

LITMUS TEST

A recent spate of letters and commentaries have been read from Bush apologists sharing the suggestion that administration opponents

demonstrate their mental imbalance by directing relentless and undue criticism at our humble and faithful current occupant. Surely the political left has gone loony. And you'd consider trusting the House to them?

But this is a man, our decider-in-chief, who reportedly farts for the quick laugh at Oval Office meetings. Who assigns crude nicknames such as Turdblossom and worse to advisors and cabinet secretaries. Who unflinchingly interrupts world heads of state in private conversation and public press conferences. Who while chewing food greets his British counterpart in undiplomatic and adolescent vernacular. And who gives an unwanted neck rub to an unsuspecting and notably female and upset German chancellor.

All this which of course pales beside the pursuit of the legalization of torture and the suspension of habeas corpus, the disregard of international conventions and treaties, the authorization of preemptive wars, the solitary veto of medical research that might one day help millions and the enrichment of his crony wealthy at the price of astronomical federal and foreign indebtedness, falling wages relative to inflation and soaring numbers of uninsured.

Every Republican candidate for office should be given this litmus test: Do you support George Bush? Is this too much emphasis to put on one man? Is it too much to make every political contest, no matter how local, a referendum on the president? Yes, in ordinary times. But our times are not ordinary.

Todd Huffman
Eugene

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