

"shushed" numerous times by patrons seated in the lawn area. A) I'm a grown-ass man, don't *shush* me, and B) how about you snobs buy the "good" reserved seats up front and leave the lawn to us more festive people? To cap it all, one of my cohorts was "shushed" by a security guard *in the beer tent!* Is nothing sacred?

At the Johnny Lang show, I had to nearly scream at the beer server to get my order across. How about some consistency? Christ, it's Gordon Lightfoot at the Cuthbert on a warm summer evening, not some snooty tux-mandatory Hult Center opera. For 30 bucks per ticket, I should be able to discuss the evening with my compadres, not get *shushed* by some bitter, back row, crusty old faux-hippie who wants absolute silence.

Here's my thought for those types: Stay home and put on your vinyl copy of *Gord's Gold*, wear your vintage Koss headphones, keep hitting that box of cheap Chablis and let the rest of us enjoy the evening and the LIVE music. Shush THIS!

Pete Zugelder
Eugene

BUY ORGANIC?

I thought your readers would like to be in the know on more corporate grabs. Most of you have seen Burt's Bees products in local stores; they make lotions, balms, salves and other skin care products. Well, an equity company owned by the Mellons, Rockefellers and another wealthy U.S. family bought them. They gave the owner a 15 percent share and a seat on the board of directors. So that folksy looking trademark of the bearded guy smiling is paying for Muffy and Reginald's yacht.

But wait, there is more. Morning Star Farms, which makes those meatless products, was bought by Kellogg. I've noticed a decline in quality, more weird ingredients and higher prices — you? If our local Toby's sells out to ADM or ConAgra or Pillsbury or some other conglomerate, then I give up.

Greg Hume
Creswell

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can find out more about corporate organics on the Organic Consumers website (www.organicconsumers.org/organic/corporate_organic.cfm).

INITIATIVE FEST

My friends and I had a spirited debate this past Friday evening, with the subject being this November's initiative for the redevelopment of Eugene's downtown. We came to the conclusion that this initiative doesn't go far enough, and we need at least three initiatives on the ballot for March 2008.

The first would require that the City Council get voter approval for any publicly

financed private development or redevelopment projects that would cost over \$1 million. The amount could be higher or lower. The second initiative would require any tax cuts to be approved by the voters, and the double majority rule will apply; fair is fair. Tax hikes need a double majority voter approval; so should tax cuts. This would have to go on the statewide ballot for approval. Third, and our most debated, that all City of Eugene department heads and deputies be subject to voter approval *before* being hired.

Our message: *We, the citizens of Eugene don't trust our governmental leaders, either elected or appointed, with our tax money.* These three initiatives, we feel, will finally tell our government officials to stop giving corporations handouts and to spend our money wisely. It's time small businesses get more attention — they are the ones who actually drive the economy. How about it, people?

Dean Carter
Eugene

DOWNTOWN LIVING ROOM

When will we realize that what will usually attract people is a sense of joy, safety, creativity, music and art filling the atmosphere? This is essential when you want to support restaurants, businesses, entertainment venues and, ultimately, the economy.

In order to do this, of course, there must be a feeling of inclusiveness within certain boundaries with responsible regulation. We would need to have a space in which individuals, families and visitors would feel welcome and comfortable. An initial investment of strong mall rules and strong security would pay off in the long run, and it would become less necessary after awhile. We would also need some TLC and positive energy from business people, artists and crafts people, who could help by taking an active role in maintaining an inviting environment.

We really need some imaginative, creative thinkers who are flexible and open-minded and who could help bring about an area that goes beyond being just an attractive place. Also, it would be effective to have an intelligent and well-thought-out public relations campaign having to do with the pride we take in ourselves and our verdant community. Maybe that would bring back the heart of our beautiful city.

Often, even on rainy days, I have seen little pockets of pedestrians mixed in with some of the youth and even a few street folks, especially in the evenings, all yearning for something to do. We cannot exclude people from downtown unless they are doing something disruptive.

Did you ever stop to wonder why it is



High Country Expeditions

Daily rivers trips on the Upper McKenzie and Klamath Rivers.

*Trips also available on other great NW Rivers



***\$45 WEDNESDAYS!**

*1/2 day McKenzie River Trips • Must mention special at time of booking
Come see us at Belknap Hot Springs • Everything you need to know @

www.HighCountryExpeditions.com

888-461-7238 • 541-822- 8288



Tickets 434-7000, 868 High St. - Info: www.theshedd.org

The Shedd Institute



Now Hear This
2007-08

Friday,
October 5
The Shedd

Nellie McKay

At The Shedd

10.05 Nelly McKay
10.10 Michelle Shocked
10.11 The Jazz Kings: Let's Dance!
-18 with Benny Goodman
10.12 Dervish
10.25 County Joe McDonald's
Tribute to Woody Guthrie
10.30 Cherryholmes
11.13 Mike Marshall/Choro Famoso
11.14 Alejandro Escovedo
11.15 John Mayall
12.06-9 Christmas at The Shedd 2007
12.08 Magical Moombah Holidays!
12.08 Ken Peplowski / Dick Hyman
— See www.theshedd.org for updates.



Shedd Institute
Presenting Sponsor

NHT
2007-08



Michelle Shocked

To Heaven Ride Tour
Wednesday, October 10
Jaqua Concert Hall, The Shedd

"You don't meet nice girls in coffee shops."

- Tom Waits



Wandering Goat Coffee Company
268 Madison, Whiteaker • (541) 344-5161
www.wanderinggoat.com