

NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Last night (9/18) I had my first WOW Hall experience. Since the day I purchased our tickets I had an uneasy feeling about the assistance, if any I would receive, being a, dread I say, "disabled" individual. I was preparing for the, "You look fine" accusation, or "No, if we help you we'll have to help everyone." I have gotten those responses and so much more for so many years; it gets tiring.

I was prepared to pull out my red, white, and blue card and show a few scars, if needed. But the staff at the Wow Hall was very kind and accommodating, made sure I had a place to sit and helped me downstairs for a cold Fat Tire before the show.

No questions asked. A welcome relief, as that evening was a particularly pain filled one for me. Thank you WOW Hall, you have fine individuals there!

The show: Todd Rundgren. My companion asked why I like this man so much. I told her to, "Listen, you will see." Todd expresses himself so well. I feel his intelligence and see his humanity. I admire his sense of humor, politics and religion, his musical expression and prowess as a true artist.

Age 44 next month, I have been waiting since I was about 18 (when I lived near Chicago and saw Utopia) to see Todd again. Thankfully, the cash fell into place at the right time and there was no need to travel more than 30 miles. Money and miles: Two extremely difficult things in my life. My companion and I had a great time! Thank you Todd and crew! I hope you know how fantastic you are.

The crowd, I estimate, 100, more or less. At least 95 percent 40 and over would be my guess. A different kind of folk, we are: Todd fans. It seemed that Todd had touched each of us in such a way as to feel that we were not going to a "concert"; we were meeting with a longtime friend.

Linda Rawlings
Creswell

CREEPING PARANOIA

Life is not safe. Don't be stupid.

There are about 300 million people in this country. Over the last 100 years, something like 20 fatalities from cougars have been reported. And yet we have DANGER signs at

Mount Pisgah. "Don't walk alone or a cougar will kill and eat you! They're probably watching you right now! Run!"

At Spencer Butte, it's "Stay away from the rocks or a rattlesnake will swallow you whole! Fear their toxic venom!"

Not really, but that is the gist of these warning signs. People are easily frightened, apparently. I've been on Spencer Butte at least 500 times, and I've seen rattlers twice. Does that mean I'll never get bit? No, but it means my chances are very, very slim.

Same goes for you. Be as cautious as you want, but it's the height of presumption to live like there is a predator behind every tree in the woods, waiting just for you. Sunny days outdoors overall are benign and one of the greatest simple pleasures. Strangers, in general, will do you no harm. In small doses, the wild is as safe as it gets. I don't get how rational people can presume any different.

Tim Kronberger
Eugene

ANTI-GAY HYPOCRITES

In 1989, *The Oregonian* refused to print allegations made by AIDS activists that Oregon Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield was gay even though the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* printed the story. The recent outing of Republican Sen. Larry Craig represents progress.

The *Idaho Statesman* spent months investigating Craig. Newspapers previously "respected the privacy" of closeted anti-gay hypocrites.

For example, the outing of Assistant Defense Secretary Pete Williams, now of NBC News, was not reported during the Gulf War in 1991 despite military policies against gay people. Vice President Dick Cheney, then serving as defense secretary, ignored the security risk of blackmail and blocked further press coverage.

Outing is effective. *The Oregonian* reported Hatfield's change of mind on an anti-gay measure just two days after gay activists threatened to out him again.

More outing history is in two carefully vetted books: *Straight News* by Edward Alwood and *Queer in America* by Michelangelo Signorile.

Thomas Kraemer
Corvallis

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
10.11-18 The Jazz Kings: Let's Dance!
10.12 Dervish
10.14 Uncle Earl (8:00 pm)
10.15 Michelle Shocked
10.25 County Joe McDonald's
Tribute to Woody Guthrie
10.29 Luciana Souza - New Bossa Nova
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 Ken Peplowski / Dick Hyman
— See www.theshedd.org for updates.

The Eye Center John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD

NHT
2007-08

Michelle Shocked

To Heaven U Ride Tour
Monday, October 15
Jaqua Concert Hall, The Shedd

MIDTOWN WINES & WINE BAR

EYRIE - BLACKCAP WINE DINNER

Thursday, October 4 6:30 pm RSVP

EOLA HILLS WINE DINNER

Wednesday, November 7 6:30 pm RSVP

FREE PUBLIC WINE TASTINGS EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:30 PM

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- MILLIONS MORE FOR: WEST BROADWAY COMMITTEE WISH-LIST/ COSTS FOR DISPLACING BUSINESSES/ INFLATION/ COST OVERRUNS

\$40 million is only the tip of the public subsidy iceberg for the West Broadway Project.

Paid for by taxpayers for Sensible Downtown Development - NO on 20-134, Gavin McComas, Treasurer
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