

City Design

Public Lecture Series

Richard Francaviglia Main Street: Past, Present, and Potential

Thursday, October 18, 2007, 7:30pm
University of Oregon's Baker Center
975 High Street • Downtown Eugene

Communities across the United States are looking to the historic Main Street as a model for development. In Oregon, Cottage Grove is hoping to revitalize its legendary Main Street. Springfield has plans for its Main Street. And Eugene is considering ways to improve Broadway, which was historically one of its main streets. In some cases, communities are looking to infill their main streets with smaller scale projects, in other places the model is more akin to a "lifestyle" center - a pattern that adds considerable retail space. In this lecture, Richard Francaviglia will discuss the evolution of main streets. He is a Professor of History & Geography at The University of Texas at Arlington and the author of *Main Street Revisited: Time, Space, and Image Building in Small-Town America*.

Galen Cranz The Changing Roles of Urban Parks

Monday, November 5, 2007, 7:30pm
University of Oregon's Baker Center
975 High Street • Downtown Eugene

Magnificent urban parks are the norm in many American cities large and small. From New York's Central Park to Vancouver, Washington's Esther Short Park, these parks have served many uses. They are places for recreation in the heart of town. They are retreats from the pace of urban life. And they are green islands in the heart of grey downtowns. In this lecture, Galen Cranz will discuss how urban parks have evolved over the last century and how, in their latest role, these places have become essential components for cities interested in issues of sustainability. She is a Professor in the Department of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. She lectures widely on urban design issues and is the author of *The Politics of Park Design*.

Presented by The University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Free parking is available - if needed, please use 10th Street to access the parking lot directly behind the Baker Center. For more information, please call 541-346-1999.

Gay people don't exist in a vacuum where the only issues are marriage and discrimination and AIDS.

[Laughs] It's true! October, for Coming Out Week, and February, for Black Heritage Month, tend to be the biggest months of my speaking tour. You know, the funny thing is, I don't think of myself as the representative or even a primary representative, but I realize because I've been openly gay and visible and vocal, I'm one of the people other people continue to call on.

I don't feel like my sexual orientation or my race or my gender alone — or any one aspect of my identity — defines me. It's a combination of factors that make all of us who we are. Often people outside of us don't see that; they see us as caricatures or stereotypes or as one-dimensional.

What I like about the TV work that I do is that when I'm on BET J's *My Two Cents*, we talk about other issues. We don't talk about gay issues every week; we talk about issues that concern the black community. Black gay people have things to say that are not just about gay issues.

On CNN, when I'm on, it's mostly political commentary. Gay people have contributions and thoughts and ideas to the political discourse that are not just related to LGBT issues. I think one of the biggest

challenges for the LGBT community is to show that we are all concerned about issues beyond the LGBT agenda. And that's difficult sometimes because there's often pushback. ... Just because you're gay doesn't mean you aren't also an American and deal with same issues that other Americans deal with.

Gay people don't exist in a vacuum where the only issues are marriage and discrimination and AIDS. We are also concerned with health care, jobs, affordable housing — the same issues others are concerned about. The more we ghettoize ourselves into a small range of topics of concern, the less likely other people are to see us in our full range of personality and opinion. And that includes the war in Iraq, by the way.

What are you reading right now?

[Laughs] There's so little time to read. But I am reading *The Fire This Time* by Randall Kenan, which is obviously a play on James Baldwin's famous book *The Fire Next Time*. It's a useful examination of issues of race in our society, written by somebody who's also a black gay man. It's helpful for me as I write about and explore the issues. **EW**

**Can you be just
as down for the
cause if you're
gay and black as if
you're not gay and
you're black?**



JEFF AND JESS

MORNINGS 5:30 – 9:00 ON MAGIC 94.5 FM