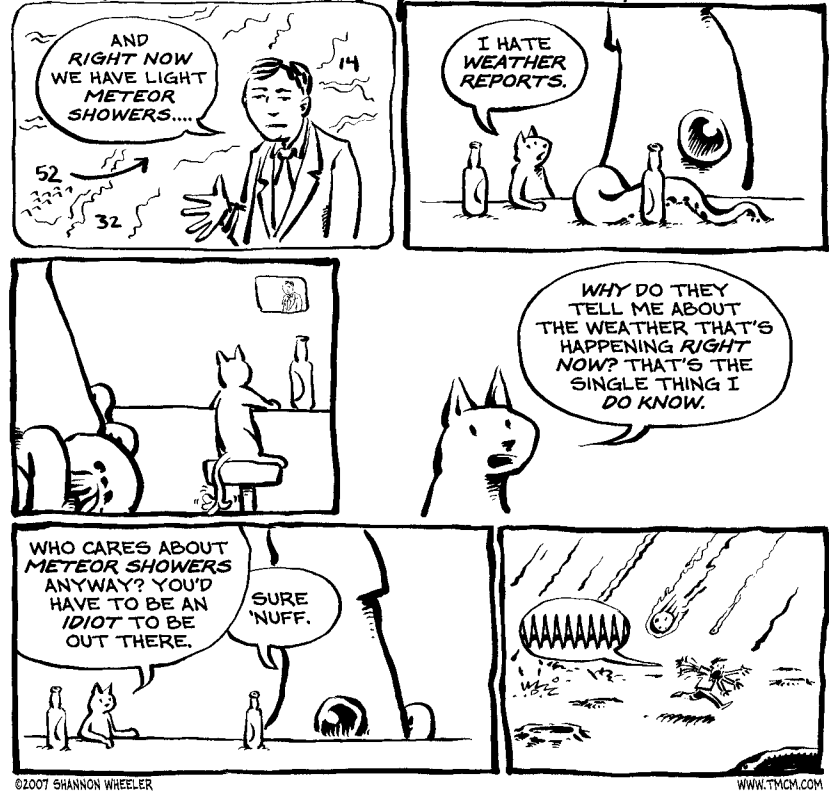


How to Be Happy (10 OF 8) by Shannon Wheeler



news Briefs

INJUNCTION FAVORS WATADA

Army Lt. Ehren Watada this week got at least a temporary reprieve from prosecution. Watada had refused to deploy to Iraq to participate in what he said was an illegal war and was facing a second court martial after his first trial earlier this year was declared a mistrial. Watada's lawyers argued that the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy, or being tried twice for the same crime, prevents him from being court-martialed again.

U.S. District Judge Benjamin H. Settle agreed that the lawyers' argument has merit and issued a preliminary injunction halting any further court martial proceeding. According to a statement from Judge Settle, "This case concerns an alleged violation of the Fifth Amendment Double Jeopardy Clause, which cannot be said to fall within a set of affairs that are peculiar to the jurisdiction of the military authorities ... The same Fifth Amendment protections are in place for military service members as are afforded to civilians. ... To hold otherwise would ignore the many sacrifices that American soldiers have made throughout history to protect those sacred rights."

Watada's attorneys described this injunction as "an enormous victory," according to a statement from the family. "But the case is not yet over and has not yet ripened into a permanent injunction, though the judge did indicate that the attorneys have demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits."

The judge's order did not indicate what

the next steps will be, but he stated that no trial proceedings could occur until his further order or until this injunction is modified or dissolved by him or by a higher court. For more complete information and updates, visit www.thankyoult.org

DENYING GENOCIDE?

When does legitimate criticism of Israeli policies "cross the line" into anti-Semitism and denial of the Holocaust?

Three UO professors and a local rabbi spoke Nov. 8 at a campus symposium about Holocaust denial. More than 100 people attended the event.

The Robert D. Clark Honors College, the Department of History and the Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies sponsored the event. It was held in response to the Pacifica Forum's bringing of Mark Weber,

EXAMINING FAIR TRADE

Can the fair trade movement have a significant impact on how products are grown, marketed and sold around the world?

Organic coffee available in the U.S. during the 1980s was not too tasty, so the Eugene-based coffee company Café Mam was created in 1985 to export coffee from a farmers' cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico, said Brad Lerch, who co-owns Café Mam with his uncle dahinda meda and cousin John Lerch. Their first lesson in fair trade, a movement seeking more equitable pay for workers in developing countries, came a few years later, when they had to pay more to compete with the cooperative's European customers, Lerch explained at a UO panel discussion on fair trade Nov. 1.

"Europe is about 10 years ahead of the U.S. on fair trade," Lerch said.

Café Mam chose to undergo the costly process of applying for fair trade certification in the mid-1990s after the business had grown to the point that the owners no longer knew all their customers, Lerch said. The company has continued to work with the same cooperative in Chiapas and visits the farmers regularly.

"Dealing with one specific group has allowed us to make more of an impact," Lerch said, adding that the daughter of one of the farmers he works with is now the first member of her family to attend a university.

UO economics professor Bruce Blonigen said the main goals of fair trade are to improve the salary and working conditions of workers in developing countries and to ensure environmentally friendly business practices in developing countries. He sees its advantages as helping poorer farmers control their participation in the market and making the trade process more efficient by removing the middleman.

But the underlying problem in international trade, Blonigen said, is that living and working conditions in developing countries are so bad that people will work for multinational corporations at wages most in the U.S. would consider unfair. He questioned whether fair trade could do enough to fix this problem.

Most fair trade products currently are specialty items that make up a small portion of most people's budgets, such as coffee, tea, cocoa, bananas and crafts, Blonigen said.

Coffee, as Lerch said, is the world's second largest traded commodity after oil. Blonigen said that the demand for coffee, like the demand for oil, tends to be inelastic, or not very vulnerable to price fluctuations. Other items might not handle a 10 to 15 percent premium charge as smoothly.

"I'm cynical about [fair trade's] ability to mainstream across enough products that developing countries would take off because of it," Blonigen said. "Let's face it, the average American consumer drinks Folgers."

Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International, which is based in Germany, reported that consumers worldwide spent 1.6 billion euros (approximately \$2.3 billion) on fair trade-certified products in 2006, a 41 percent increase from 2005. For comparison, the World Trade Organization reported that world merchandise exports totaled \$11.76 trillion in 2006, so fair trade works out to about 0.02 percent of the world's total trade for 2006.

Two UO student organizations, the Sustainable Business Group and the International Business and Economics Club, hosted the event after Café Mam contacted them about doing something for Fair Trade Month in October, said SBG President Binh Lu.

"A lot of people think sustainability is just the environment, but it's not," Lu said, adding that she defines a sustainable business as one that is consciously aware of its impact on the environment, the community and the people it works with. — *Eva Sylwester*



SPENCER'S BUTTE GETS REHAB

Don't be offended if next time you hike Spencer's Butte you find some trails blocked off and a fence in place. The Southeast Neighbors have teamed up with the city of Eugene to repair deteriorated trails and flora near the top of the butte.

Southeast Neighbors received a matching grant from the city to fix the butte, but they're worried other hikers may mistake their butte-friendly project for the city getting in the way of their right to hike. Local residents have been concerned about erosion on the east side of the butte and dangerous hiking conditions created by steep cut-through trails that deviate from the switchbacks on the official trails.

Tom Halferty, a geologist and biologist who's a member of Southeast Neighbors, says the project will involve transplanting vegetation and placing downed logs across the problematic trails, creating a natural barrier and allowing native plants to re-grow. The groups also plans to install a 40 to 50 foot wooden fence and signs to help decommission the trails. The fence may come down later once the trails have blended back into the landscape.

The group welcomes more volunteers for their workday on Spencer's Butte, which will take place at 10 am Saturday, Dec. 1. Volunteers will meet in the Spencer's Butte parking lot off Willamette Street, and Halferty suggests being ready for "challenging physical work on steep slopes." For more information, contact Halferty at thomas_halferty@yahoo.com or 517-2646. — *Camilla Mortensen*

