

are doing it, Chicago, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C., as well. Even Wal-Mart. So why not Eugene?

Gwyn Marlow
Eugene

DANCING & HUGGING

Thanks for that glimpse into the heart of the Holiday Market (Slant, 11/21); you captured the joy of the event so well. The dancing and hugging in the aisles continues daily, and the crowds are showing up and enthusiastically supporting local artistry and commerce. Thanks for the multiple mentions of our event throughout last week's issue — I think it really helped raise awareness and get folks in the door.

Thanks also for mentioning the great lineup of live music. This community of ours is abundant with talented musicians, and I could easily book twice the number of acts and still not fit everyone who deserves to be heard and appreciated on the schedule. For the past 16 years I have been fortunate to work with these people both as "Whoever's in charge of the live music," and as "Whoever's running the sound board," which is a rare position to be in. I get to experience firsthand, every week, what this dedicated, generous, talented group of visionaries have to contribute to the spirit of this place we've chosen to live in. I get to see them help folks smile and laugh and cry and dance and sit still and listen, and take them away from the everyday with the sounds they make. It's a blessing to behold.

They say that good management is invisible, so I'll take it as a compliment that I'm a "whoever" in this case. I do prefer to enable horn tooting, rather than toot my own horn, but just this once, a short blast — I'm Kim Still, manager of market promotions and advertising at Saturday Market and Holiday Market, and I book the music and run the sound board and do all kinds of other Market promoting things.

Glad to know you appreciate the Market. Indeed it is an amazing community resource!

Kim Still
Saturday Market

BEST BEST SERVICE

This is in response to the Nov. 8 letter by Seth Long and the Ring of Fire crew (which itself was in response to the EW's mentioning Ring of Fire restaurant in their Best of Eugene issue, Oct. 25). "Though you might receive the *best* best service if you're a gay man, service for the rest of us ain't too shabby either," EW wrote.

I'm a gay man, but I'm not generally identified as gay, even by other gay guys — I just plain don't get noticed that way, for the most part. So I guess my restaurant service wasn't as good as it could be? Don't get me wrong, I have always loved my dining experience at Ring of Fire. The food is great and the staff are friendly and good at what they do. I just thought it was kind of funny EW wrote what it did, but I also thought it was cool because a Corvallis equivalent of the EW would *never* have the huevos to write something like that, even about a business everybody knew was overwhelmingly GLBT ... if there were any here.

I remembered dining at ROF, and it spurred some introspection. I get the same thing at Snafu (coincidentally a partner business of Ring of Fire), where there's nowhere besides outside the building to talk to people without screaming at the top of your lungs. I've noticed people don't want strike up conversation unless you look like you fell out of an Aberzombie catalogue, fuck with your eyebrows, are Auschwitz-skinny, or it's a friend you already knew from Neighbors back when it was open. So when you're the one who tries to start a conversation, you get snotty comments and/or ignored.

I miss Neighbors. It was a bigger space with places where you could actually talk with people and had a wider (better?) variety of people to meet and chat with.

Ryan Thompson
Corvallis

A BAD DEAL

The BLM's ongoing Western Oregon Plan Revisions are quickly moving toward opening tens of thousands of acres of ancient forests to logging. These lands were originally given to the Oregon and California (O&C) Railroad Company for construction

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- Potato Hard Taco
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- 01.22 BeauSoleil
- 01.31-02.08 Jazz Kings: Well, Git It!
- 02.02 Chris Smither
- 02.09 Brazilian Guitar Festival
- 02.14 The Bad Plus
- 02.20 Carolina Chocolate Drops
- 02.21 Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars
- 02.24 Cadillac Sky
- 03.04 Balkan Beat Box

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Ken Peplowski
Dick Hyman Saturday 12.08



The Eye Center
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