



OLFACTORY FATIGUE

After reading Brenda Monroe's and Dave Taube's sucky critiques of the Weekly's "unofficial guide" (6/26 and 7/17) I am convinced that they are the type of persons who sit in a pile of conventional political shit and can't even smell it.

*Bob Saxton
Eugene*

ATTACK ON DIVERSITY

For many of us it is hard not to consider the brutal attack on Michael C. last month in the Trainsong District as a crime motivated by prejudice. That incident was a crime both against a specific African-American male and against the wider community, which has come to regard itself as "diverse." My friends of color remind me of how far short Eugene falls from this presumed identity. The discrepancy between so-called diversity, and a mugging like this is painful and glaring.

Some would say the expression of violence with a bat or club bears a distinct signature. Roughly interpreted, "people of color, be on the alert." It is hard to disagree with this position given the history of violence against blacks and people of color in America. A signature bears likeness to a symbol, e.g. KKK, and points in at least two directions; these may be reduced to two very basic emotional conditions: "beware of my anger" (the outward expression) and "I am of disturbed mind" (the inward reality).

It can become difficult to reach out with co-passion for youthful perpetrators acting in a fit of misplaced passion. We can, and perhaps must, embrace the youths on that night as "sons-gone-astray," and hope that with proper help they will find their way back in the fold. God help us that while we deplore this brutal act of violence we may also come to understand, and perhaps even love, those who would choose violence over understanding.

*Bruce M. Sedgwick, MA
Eugene*

BACKYARD BURNING

I've gotten pretty angry at LRAPA's and the state of Oregon's approach to

cleaning the air in the Willamette Valley. Their approach is actually a retreat.

LRAPA, in last March's board meeting, decided to go the way of the state of Oregon's air pollution regulations. LRAPA has now let local governments decide whether recreational backyard burning, aka campfire, bonfire, patio heater, is allowed during the summer months. Those of you who don't know what patio heaters are, they are campfires with a skirt. They are used by people who are too lazy to go camping to have a wienie roast, and LRAPA succumbed to pressure to allow campfires in urban areas. How insane!

Instead of protecting and improving air quality in Lane County, LRAPA's board members decided to pollute the air some more. This year, Springfield and Florence now allow campfires in backyards. Last year it was illegal and it should be still. Who appointed these jackoffs? Along with LTD, this board needs to be elected, not appointed.

I agree grass field burning needs to be banned, and Gov. Kulongoski should issue an executive order, but what about locally? Please attend the LRAPA board meetings at 7 pm every second Monday of each month at 1010 Main St., Springfield, and also let your county commissioners know how you feel. Now is the time to pass a statewide burn ban via ballot initiative since the politicians have been bought off by the grass farmer lobbyists. What a pathetic state (of Oregon) we live in.

*Dean Carter
Springfield*

HAPPY DAYS

Does anyone refer to our kick-ass congressman as Da Foz? No? Can we start now?!? I can't wait for the episode where he walks into the Veep's office and says "Yo, Mr. C — sit on it!" Then mugs to the camera with two thumbs up with "AAAYYYYY!" Look for the spin-off: Jenna Loves Hagie.

*Glenn Leonard
Eugene*

Please email letters to
LETTERS@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

8 Locations in Eugene and Springfield

BURRITO AMIGOS

GETTING GREENER

REDUCE Reusable water glasses & coffee cups	REUSE Used trans fat free oils go to bio fuel programs	RECYCLE Glass soda bottles donated to & recycled by youth groups Using ECO biodegradable containers and more to come...
---	--	--

ON NOW! AUGUST SPECIAL \$5.75
Wet veggie burrito

Everybody Must Get PIE!

SWEET POTATO PIE

- ★ Hemp, bamboo, tencel & organic cotton clothing for the whole family
- ★ Kickass GLASS from over 30 Local Artists
- ★ Hemp twine in NEW colors
- ★ Tapestries, T-Shirts, Stickers & Buttons

Voted Eugene's BEST Local Clothing Store!
(4 years in a row, yo!)

Mon-Thurs 10-7 / Sun 12-6
Corner of 11th & Willamette in the ♥ of Eugene

Blackberry Ramble

& Jamboree '08

Eugene, Oregon

Join together on August 2nd for The New Community Bike Ride through Eugene's neighborhoods and on August 3rd for a century tour of the South Willamette Valley. Blackberry cobbler for all.

Presented by: **GEARs** Greater Eugene Area Riders

Sponsored by:

- MARKET OF CHOICE Food for the Way You Live
- Northwest Community Credit Union
- Emerald Valley ORGANICS
- City of Eugene Recreation Services
- SafeRoutes Oregon Safe Routes to School
- BIKE BARN
- JERRY'S
- GPzone
- COMMUNITY SENTINEL
- CO-MOTION CYCLES

For more info: www.eugenegears.org or call (541) 687-0487