

and/or on TV does not help viewers to build strong, loving personalities, does it?

Does *EW*'s cover seem to condone violence against women? Ask a 10-year-old. Are the adults who consensually participate in fetish "play" acting out roles learned when they were children?

Yes, those are consenting adults on that cover, engaged in pursuing a hard-spanking fetish they seem to derive pleasure from. Did any Abu Ghraib prison guards enjoy torturing their prisoners?

Charles F. Thielman
Eugene

FURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

I just wanted to clear the air a little about furies, mentioned in the cover story Oct. 8. At the root of it all, a furry is a fan of anthropomorphic animals with human characteristics and personalities. This can be as benign as appreciating Disney art, to enjoying cartoons, all the way up to wanting to be transformed into the animal a person feels like inside. However, it doesn't necessarily have a sexual connotation.

In the article, you write that "furries are folks who find large furry costumes tantalizing." Many who enjoy fursuits enjoy them because it lets them express the furry side of themselves that they have no other way of expressing. Many simply wear tails or ears to feel "furrier." Lots of times, this is done without any sexual thoughts or imagery at all.

There are quite a few who participate in the "fur piles" and scratching the article talks about, but I wanted to make sure that readers knew that not everyone they meet who describes themselves as "furry" is into the sexual aspect of it; they may just enjoy the silliness and lightheartedness the fandom provides.

Marc "Jaycatt" lePine
Eugene

ALONE AGAIN NATURALLY

I have learned to value the lives and words of some of the ancients, for our times just aren't producing examples of lives or words that make sense to me. One ancient is Han Shan, the "Cold Mountain" poet who lived hundreds of years ago, gave up on society and became a hermit.

He found himself, if one can discern his reality through the torn texts left pinned to trees, not in the struggle to find acceptance in his time and culture, but in living alone, with just a few friends and things, just becoming awake to his own authenticity, his own dance (and tears). I find it fascinating that the dangers of institutionalization and cultural bullying seem to be present in all ages.

I am writing in praise of the peace and gentleness of solitude, in admiration of a life that doesn't include the terrors and stresses of our group culture. Perhaps one is better off working for change (while addicted to SSRIs), but all I see is a diseased system making many of us sick.

Our prisons often produce criminals; our military often produce wars; our schools often produce fear, confusion and lonely students unable to scales walls of social prejudice. The media are fed by advertising, which is produced by those expert in making us afraid to be ourselves. We are not working for change; we are working to feed a dangerous illusion that more and more of us can live faster and faster, and one day peace will arrive. Ken Kesey had it right in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* when he pointed out that sanity arrives with individuality among friends, and insanity is the inevitable result of group-think, of listening not to our own inner voice but to those who tell us we are to be controlled.

The only thing that "arrives" is our old age and death. Why waste the day in praise of meetings and tomorrow? One friend to talk with and a day free to think and wander is worth 10 houses in the South Hills and a hundred university degrees. One minute listening to the wind as it works its way through the trees along the bike path is worth three hours joining the odd group-screaming at kids/gladiators at Autzen. Solitude is a direction for the soul's ear, a home for one's heart even in the middle of a city.

Hugh Massengill
Eugene

PRETENSE OF OVERSIGHT

I cannot even believe that the Civilian Review Board and the city of Eugene thinks it is justified for a police officer to deliberately slam the skull of a human being to the ground and then for another officer to use pain compliance electric shock on the same handcuffed and subdued human being for an easy arrest for alleged jaywalking.

I was there. I saw what happened. You did not. How many eyewitnesses can you ignore?

The sickening decision of the CRB gives carte blanche to thug Eugene police officers to continue to stomp all over constitutionally granted First Amendment free speech rights and to use any violence they see fit to "uphold city policy." The blood is on all of your hands now.

I am now sorry to have advocated for a police auditor and CRB as they are clearly just a sham to create a pretense of oversight and justice. I can think of no incident in recent history in Eugene that demonstrated blatant police brutality more than the events of May 30, 2008, and despite my jaded outlook and lack of trust in government institutions, even I am shocked by this travesty of an outcome.

The auditor position should be abolished so the people of Eugene know where things really stand: Police can do no wrong in the eyes of the "leadership" of the city of Eugene.

Josh Schlossberg
Former Eugene resident

THE DIRTY TRUTH

The Eugene Civilian Review Board decision that the police brutality perpetrated against Ian Van Ornum by a rogue officer was "appropriate" is a shock. I was there. It was the most brutal act by two police officers against a nonviolent protestor I have ever witnessed in my 14 years of grassroots



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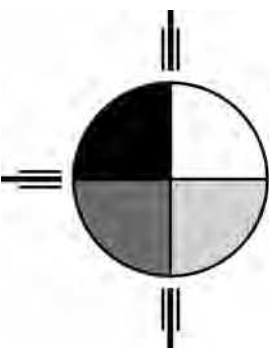
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Addressing Domestic Violence in Lane County:

A Community Forum

Wednesday, October 21

Womenspace, the Lane County Domestic Violence Council and the Oregon Department of Human Services collaborate to host an event in observance of

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Town Hall Forum

6:30-8:00 p.m.
Harris Hall

hosted by Lane County Commissioner

ROB HANDY
Lane County Commissioner

PETE SORENSON
and City of Eugene Mayor

KITTY PIERCY

Town Hall Panel:

Peggy Whalen Executive Director, Womenspace
Jeff Todahl Trauma Healing Project
Rose Wilde Department of Human Services

Community Forum

5:30-8:30 p.m.
Wayne Morse
Free Speech Plaza
(corner of 8th and Oak)
125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene

Other Events:

5:30-6:30 p.m. Children's activities and a special children's musical guest, Uncle Bunkle
5:30-8:00 p.m. Information tables from local human service agencies
8:00-8:30 p.m. Womenspace will commence the evening with a candlelight vigil

For more information, please contact Lane County Domestic Violence Council Coordinator Theya McCown at 541-284-4258, theyam@enddv.com or contact Commissioner Rob Handy at 541-682-4203, www.lanecounty.org

