

BAD TIME FOR HIT PIECE

In regards to the "Cannabis Café" (Viewpoint 12/24); it is easy to get drawn up by emotion, but logic is more effective. The good people who wrote it are clearly coming from a loving place, but I am concerned that they are making their arguments from fear — it is better to be conscious of danger than to allow it to dictate our actions.

Starting from the premise that criticism is cause for avoidance gives power to any who want it. Yes, there is a real danger from those who would prohibit the medicinal use, but they do not get veto power over the ethical argument for outright legalization. To limit advocacy to legally accepted causes is to use circular logic and cause a catch-22.

If one wants to deal with the prohibition of marijuana, then open the discussion to all logical arguments — and considering that the only logical arguments in favor of prohibition lead either to a massive infringement of liberty or support rule by fiat, it's easy to see why the advocates of prohibition would want the discussion not be opened. I find it unproductive for those seeking incremental liberty to attack those seeking greater liberty — they are both seeking liberty.

I think that it would have been a better use of a column in the Christmas *EW* to have the board president and executive director of the Compassion Center write an article touting the great work of the Compassion Center, even adding a note about the Cannabis Café — assuming it was more positive than negative (for the holidays). It was in poor taste to write a hit piece against their perceived competition.

Trevor Kiel Ballard
Eugene

FOCUS ON THE MAN

Regarding the *Invictus* review (12/17) by Jason Blair: Let's be clear; *Invictus* is not an exploration of apartheid per se. It is, rather, the study of Nelson Mandela's hard-earned wisdom (to say the very least) and its manifestation therein.

I, for one, deeply appreciated the subtle nuances this film provided which enabled me to dwell upon this man's profound self assurance tempered by a constant presence of humility.

I suggest turning a blind eye to the film's shortcomings and instead breathe in the reverence of this extraordinary human being. You'll be richer for it.

Ellen Epstein
Eugene

SCROOGES AMONG US

A peaceful Sunday pre-Christmas hike on the Ridgeline Trail led to a rude awakening for three hikers. Upon returning to their car, parked and locked at the trailhead at 50th and Fox Hollow, they discovered a shattered side window and a theft of at least one purse.

An hour earlier I had parked my old Volvo and left on the trail for a walk with my dog. My car (old and undesirable, though locked) was untouched when I returned.

I felt really bad for those folks. Then I looked around. On the ground in the parking area there were at least a dozen instances of shattered windows! Which is to say that this is a frequent and high property crime area. Which is to say that there is at least one organized gang who does this shit regularly.

I noticed, as I left the parking lot to begin my walk, two people, kind of hanging out: one was an older, possible ex-Army/alkie type who was staring at me, kind of: medium tall. The other a much younger man in a baseball cap, dark dressed. Maybe these two had nothing to do with it, but ...

I would assume that other parking areas are similarly vulnerable.

Anyhow, here in little ol' Eugene there are some Scrooges among us who care nothing for a fellow human's well being. Beware, and let's catch those suckers!

Note to city and county: Install highly visible signage and/or video surveillance at these vulnerable locations!

Peter Holden
Eugene

HEAR AMY ON KWVA

Thank you for your reporting in the Nov.19 issue on Amy Goodman and *Democracy Now*.

I wanted to add that the public can listen to Goodman's reports on local radio station KWVA, 88.1 FM every weekday from 7 to 8 am. Also you can watch *Democracy Now* and see her on local cable access Channel 29 every weekday from 5 to 6 pm. Plus you can go to www.democracynow.org for links to hear and see her reports.

Bob Becker
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. E-mail to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.





PUBLIC
5
 FIFTH STREET
 MARKET

Holiday Bazaar

EVERY WEEKEND {FRIDAY - SUNDAY}
NOVEMBER 20TH
 THRU
DECEMBER 20TH
 {FRIDAY + SATURDAY 10-7 :: SUNDAY 11-5}

LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR
 OF THE MARKETS WEST END NEXT TO LA VELLE

YOUR LOCAL ARTISAN BOUTIQUE
for the holidays!



BUY A CD AND GET A T-SHIRT

