

INJUSTICE TO THE FILM

Jason Blair, in his review of Michael Haneke's *The White Ribbon* forcefully states, "writer/director Michael Haneke is suggesting that a village of outwardly pious, inwardly malicious teens might possess the strain of hatred which metastasized during wartime — a reach that is aesthetically and morally weak-kneed."

Well, the German-born but raised-in-Austria director actually is about far more than that simplistic mischaracterization (the action is pre-WWI not II). Haneke's motivation, he stated in an *LA Weekly* interview, was to examine how Nazism grew in Germany. In this brilliant film, he shows its genesis from powerful, unforgiving German Protestant origins (pre-World War I) — in contrast to the more forgiving Austrian Catholicism.

To miss this is to view, as Blair obviously does, the film as a two-dimensional horror film; this is a grave injustice to the film, the director, and lovers of film. I might also note that, in the header, Blair reveals much of the film's suspense, its mystery. He should be forced to wear "The White Ribbon."

Jayne Vasconcellos
Eugene

TRULY SUSTAINABLE?

Thanks to *EW* for the surprise of finding my picture on the cover of the March 11 "Nesting" issue.

While countless politicians and bureaucrats could be expected to nonchalantly refer to my environmentally innovative approach to building as "sustainable," the fact is that most of what I do doesn't even come close to what I call "genuine, meaningful sustainability."

For sustainability to be taken seriously, it needs to involve a rigorous set of criteria including energy, economics, the use of nonrenewable resources and exponential growth within a closed, finite system (Earth). When viewed through the lens of reality, one discovers that true sustainability is a dauntingly complex, remote, far-flung ideal.

Strangely enough though, in spite of such difficulty, there is not one shred of doubt as to whether the human family will achieve true sustainability. To do anything less is unsustainable. We will either achieve it voluntarily, or we will achieve it involuntarily as it is forced upon

us by reality. There is no guarantee that the end result will be pleasant or feature the conveniences that we take for granted today.

Those interested in learning more about the intriguing challenge of designing and implementing a sustainable world are welcome to attend my talk and presentation, "Embracing the Inevitable - Humankind's Reluctant Yet Certain Transition to Sustainability" at 7 pm Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, at Tsunami Books. I'm also happy to present to classes of any age group.

Robert Bolman
Eugene

AWESOME ORBS

As I read Gregory Basore's excellent letter (3/11) about K. Sowdon's letter (2/25), it occurred to me that the two smartest balls in the world are the two hemispheres of the human brain.

Bob Saxton
Eugene

MOVEMENT MAKERS

I've seen Eugene's downtown in nearly all its incarnations since the late '60s. We've struggled as a community for years to bring life back downtown and every plan is met with opposition from some group or another. The local divisiveness on this issue has become an embarrassment. We mock our leaders in D.C. for being unable to get anything done, yet we are modeling the same territorial behavior here at home.

As a person who loves Eugene because of and in spite of its challenges, I feel that the door to revitalization is closing fast. Many people I know simply overlook downtown as an important part of our community's personality. They are tired of the constant battles and roadblocks and are, quite simply, bored with the whole thing. Their shopping and dining loyalties are shifting to the Oakway area, the south Willamette area and even Crescent Village. I urge you to get behind the LCC downtown proposal. The sooner it gets started, the better. It may represent one of our last opportunities. Please don't let it go by.

Cheryl Crumbley
Eugene



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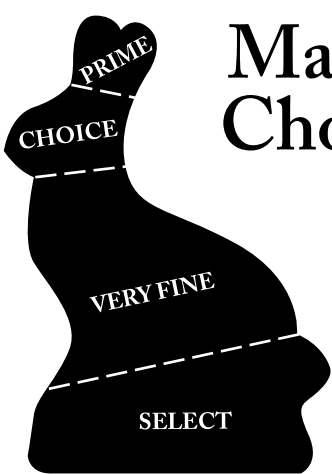
— Beth Blumenstein, MD
Family Physician



CHARNELTON CLINIC

Community Health Centers of Lane County provides quality care to our communities. Dr. Blumenstein is accepting new patients

at the Charnelton Community Clinic,
151 West Seventh Ave., Suite 100, in Eugene.
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