



MAKE PANTIES FOR YOUR PARTNER

Tired of purchasing the traditional flowers and candies for your partner on Valentine's Day? What says love more than making a pair of underwear for your lover out of his or her favorite old T-shirt! Redoux Parlour, a retail shop specializing in local designers, consignment and resale, is hosting an undies-making workshop 11 am to 2 pm Saturday, Feb. 5, at its 780 Blair Blvd. location.

"Most people don't realize how easy it is to make your own underwear," says Laura Lee Laroux, owner of Redoux Parlour. Laroux offers sewing classes for the community, but has never done a one-day workshop before. "I figured it would be fun to provide a different kind of Valentine's activity for the community; plus it's a great way to teach people how to reuse an article of clothing that they might otherwise throw out," says Laroux.

For \$35, the workshop includes materials for three pairs of undies, including lace, elastic, Lycra scraps and other recycled materials, a custom underwear pattern (yoga short, boy short, bikini, low-rider hipster, thong or brief) and of course, the sewing machine and thread to create your magic.

Laroux encourages individuals to bring in an old favorite article of clothing you can transform to make a more personalized gift for yourself or a loved one.

For more information and to sign up for the workshop call 342-1942. — Heather Cyrus

EMX GETS STRONG SUPPORT

While media attention has focused on a few car-oriented businesses opposed to the proposed West 11th EmX bus rapid transit route, support for the project from a group representing more than 23,000 local citizens has gone relatively unnoticed.

The ASUO, the elected UO student government representing 23,389 UO students, unanimously passed a resolution Nov. 17 strongly supporting LTD's proposed public transportation improvement.

The resolution notes that the ASUO provides almost 3 percent of LTD's operating budget, far more than the payroll taxes of any of the business opponents. The UO and its students are by far the largest employer and largest economic driver in Eugene.

Both students and businesses would benefit from the West 11th street rapid transit, according to the ASUO resolution. "The West Eugene EmX Extension is a vital transportation solution in the Eugene-Springfield area," the resolution representing 23,000 local citizens states. "West Eugene has been focused on the automobile for too long. Automobile congestion decreases the opportunities for Eugene residents to choose alternate modes of transportation along this important corridor while continuing to emit pollutants that harm our environment. We believe that this project will bring much needed connections to the residences and businesses in West Eugene and will go a long way in completing the progressive bus rapid transit network we would like to see in our community."

The huge show of support was sent to the Eugene City Council Jan. 22 by ASUO Senate President Zachary Stark-MacMillan. "I think it shows the strength of the student support for this valuable service," Stark-MacMillan told the council.

LTD has tried to appease a vocal minority of "No Build" opponents by scaling the EmX project back at the expense of riders, but the "No Build" group still fiercely opposes the public transit project.

The City Council, which has appeared closely divided on the issue, plans to vote on West Eugene EmX on March 9 after a Feb. 8 public hearing (see Activist Alert). — Alan Pittman

news Briefs

GERRYMANDER COULD REDRAW EUGENE POWER

The Eugene City Council plans to begin meeting this month to redraw councilor ward boundaries — and perhaps the city's power structure — in response to the 2010 Census.

The council plans to meet Feb. 14 to discuss ward redistricting.

Ten years ago the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce successfully pushed adoption of its carefully drawn map of wards that eliminated a progressive south Eugene councilor seat. To accomplish that, the Chamber map severed students living near Autzen Stadium from a university area ward and created an elongated, noncontiguous north Eugene ward that stretches north from the Ferry Street Bridge, jumps the river and another ward, and reaches up to the far end of River Road, a seven-mile drive away.

"It's a blatant power grab," progressive activist Greg McLauchlan complained in a 2001 *Eugene Weekly* opinion column. McLauchlan wrote that the chamber map sought to segregate progressive voters into three concentrated wards to reduce the chance of progressives winning in mixed, swing districts.

Former councilor Bonny Bettman (McCornack) complained 10 years ago that redistricting moved the City Council to the right in support of urban sprawl and corporate and developer subsidies. "We ended up with the Republican scenario."

The Chamber of Commerce had threatened the city that if it didn't get the gerrymander it wanted, the conservative business group would sue the city and/or pass a charter amendment to eliminate all wards and elect councilors citywide.

Citywide elections would favor more conservative candidates with deeper pockets for mass advertising, a City Club committee noted.

Eugene City Councilor Andrea Ortiz, in elongated Ward 7, emailed councilors last month that she plans to attend a training this week in Washington, D.C., on redistricting.

Mayor Kitty Piercy emailed back, "I think we need a redistricting briefing and some information about how this will roll out." — Alan Pittman

ISLAMIC STORM IN A TEACUP

Undeterred by LCC's cancellation of his "What Is Islam" classes and the modest firestorm that ensued from that, Barry



Sommer began a series of four weekly lectures from 6 to 8 pm on the same subject in Harris Hall on Jan. 24. Working independently of any sponsorship, Sommer devoted the first third of the evening to an account of the life of Mohammed, followed by a history of how the Qur'an evolved from oral revelation to written document.

Two weeks earlier in the same location, Sommer had given a 45-minute preview of his free month-long Monday night series at a gathering of the Lane County 9.12 Project, a local Tea Party group that meets at 6:15 pm on the second Tuesday of every month at Harris Hall downtown.

Sommer had been criticized previously for lacking any formal academic credentials, and for presenting a biased view of Islam on his CTV program, writings and blog. However, LCC does not require academic credentials for noncredit "personal enrichment" courses, and Sommer claims that every word he presents can be verified as factual, often in the Qur'an itself. He denies "cherry picking" only the worst aspects of Islam, and has issued an open challenge to debate anyone who claims he "manufactures fictitious or biased data."

His message found a receptive audience among the nearly 50 of the 9.12 Project attendees and at each of his presentations since.

Representatives of Eugene's Anti-Hate Task Force handed out fliers before each event decrying Sommer's "prejudice and discrimination" for encouraging a community atmosphere that replaces "friendship, unity and common purpose" with "division, mistrust and ignorance." However, after the Jan. 11 meeting, several 9.12ers expressed the opinion that they didn't find anything "hateful" about Sommer's presentation, and similar audience reactions have followed each event.

The Lane 9.12 Project is an offshoot of the national organization founded by Fox News TV and radio personality Glenn Beck. Its approximately 200-plus local members are a like-minded group of individuals with common conservative values "frustrated with wild government spending and high taxes to finance it," according to their current chair, Glenn Stutzman.

"We have grown to expect the government to take the place of the educator, family, landlord, doctor, and general care taker," says Stutzman. Put right, he feels, "The interest alone on our local and national debts could pay for a

