Elevator Music

In our increasingly upwardly-mobile society, it should come as no surprise that elevator culture has spread through our society. Specifically, the ubiquitous drone of elevator music has consumed the silence once cherished in many places utilized as 'stages of rumination'. In doing so, the white noise of mediocrity has spoiled the workshop of substance, i.e. the imagination, which is rattled from its ruminative armchair by the incessant clamoring of a squawking public's muse, i.e. its stagnation of change by the maintenance of a mediocre status quo. But why does the public cherish such mediocrity, when in fact the assumption of our existence is to continue the march 'upward'?

As I hope is clear by this point – though I'm sure the squawking dotes of the public's composition require blunt clarification, the ubiquitous drone of white noise is not-opposed because in our democratic society the majority does-not-oppose it; this is a different statement that 'the ubiquitous drone of white noise *is favored* because the majority *are in favor of* it'. In a country that prides itself on its democratic action to expression, the non-opposition of the majority has conquered the expression of the few. Was this how the Declaration of Independence, signed this day 231 years ago by an expressive few dozen, came into being?

If once discussion-laden restaurants are to be flooded with the transience of the top 40, and if formerly still stages of rumination such as elevator landings are to be violated by the undulating motion of TV images, then where is the mind to go to allow its thoughts to feedback on themselves without the intercepting crash of the plebian mediocrity?

Perhaps this is how the complacent majority maintains its tooth-and-nail hold on its precious status quo? But I assure you that the expression of the few will conquer the apathy of the many, because Nature, with its child Expression, always finds a way – a way to live, and not just to not-die.

Written on 7/4/2007 at Starbucks on Peachtree and 7th Streets