



Gone to the Ducks

Thirteen small but commanding characters caused our jogging trio to stop in its tracks one recent morning. My friends and I were delighted to find Mother Mallard and 12 peeping babies noisily announcing their presence.

Later, noticing on the calendar that it was National Pet Week, I thought what good timing the ducks had for resuming their more visible springtime activities. For, community pets might best describe the status of this population in my Santa Clara neighborhood.

A visit with two Crocker Street homeowners, Joan Funk and Rose Wells, revealed that the ducks have been in the neighborhood in varying numbers for at least the 16 years that Joan has lived there. According to the ladies, the ducks number around 100 now, but at one time 250 to 300 were ranging all over the neighborhood. At one point, a resident had erected a "Duck Crossing" sign and they agreed that it would be fun for the community to have one installed again. In response to the question, "Are there pluses for you in having these birds as backyard neighbors?" both women answered yes. Joan offered that

close-up observation is a special joy. "We have a nest on our brush pile right now." According to Rose, "They also keep down the slug and earwig population in our lawns." Several of the neighbors encourage the ducks to remain by giving them chicken feed. Both Joan and Rose admit, that in their enthusiasm, duckwatchers have broken off or bent their fences. Also, some people forget their bags after feeding the ducks. "But the ducks are worth it, and I feel they belong to everyone," said Joan.

The ducks do seem to favor the shaded and sheltered banks of Spring Creek edging the back yards of Crocker Street residents. Here there are lots of algae to dive under and overhanging blackberry vines to hide in. But as each spring progresses, and friendly visitors of all ages come to call, these pet wanderers become bolder and are often seen crossing Blackfoot or Crocker Street overland or through connecting culverts. Then, funtime is really on.

One boy has a special game he enjoys playing with the ducks. Head hanging over one end of the culvert he boisterously does

his duck call and soon jumps up with a grin as he hears and sees his invited diners swimming toward him. With Spring Creek and Irving Elementary Schools in the vicinity, the adolescent crowd claims a large share of the flock's time.

More than one toddler in the neighborhood has his/her own unique friendship with these birds. On many afternoons, they can be seen coming with a parent or two, or big brother or sister. Clutching their bag of bread or cereal, anticipation on their faces, they are there to see their ducks.

Adults, also, whether joggers, bikers, drivers, or walkers (often with pet dogs) usually, at least, slow down to view the birds. Frequently they stop, since this was their destination all along.

—Linda Osterhaus

A Chain of Voices

By Andre Brink, Faber & Faber, Ltd., Great Britain, 1982, William Morrow & Co., 1982, Penguin Books, 1983, 525 pages, \$5.95. (Book courtesy of Marketplace Books, Fifth Street Market, Eugene, OR.)

The setting for this novel is South Africa in the early 1800's. It is the story of the brothers Nicolaas and Barend van de Merwe; of Hester, the mysterious and enchanting orphan whom they both desire; and of Galant, the slave who was almost a brother in their childhood years. Galant, so close to freedom, so close to being equal in those early years, as an adult, becomes consumed with the desire for freedom and finally leads the slaves in a revolt against their masters.

In telling this tale, author Brink uses an unusual style whereby each major event is described in the first person by each party to the episode. Considering the number of characters in the novel, the complexity of following them through childhood and into adulthood, it would seem, on the surface, to be an awkward book to follow. However, the author shows consummate skill in relating each event through the eyes of each character and the pace is steady; only on rare occasions does it falter or confuse the reader.

A Chain of Voices is truly an appropriate title, and the voices combine to spin a lusty tale of hope and heartbreak in a hard land among a hardy breed of people, slave and master alike.

—Kenneth N. Harris

Friday

Sports/Recreation

Pac-10 Championships today, Berkeley, California.

Nor-Pac Championships continue today. See 5/19 listing.

Films

Films at the U of O are: *Mephisto*, 180 PLC, 7 & 9:30 pm; *The Women in the Dunes*, 177 Lawrence, 7 & 9 pm; *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, 150 Geology, 7 & 9:15 pm. All films are \$1.50/\$1.

Theatre

Merchant of Venice opens tonight at 8 pm. Shakespeare's comedy of love, destiny and intrigue. Stephan Yarian plays Shylock, along with Kimberly Anderson as Portia and Dennis Murphy as Antonio. Robinson Theatre, UO. \$5/\$3.25 for UO students and senior citizens/\$4 other students. 686-4191.

Felfer! continues. See 5/19 listing.

Slow Dance on the Killing Ground continues. See 5/19 listing.

East of the Rockies continues. See 5/19 listing.

Workshops/Classes

Bridging the Gap: The Politics of Supporting Lesbianism. A nine-hour workshop exploring issues that unite/divide us as women. University credit available. Facilitated by Barb Ryan, Adella Shaw and Helena See. Call Women Studies to register, 686-5529. \$35. 6-9 pm Friday and 9:30 am-4:30 pm Saturday. Condon 360, U of O.

Birth to Three is sponsoring a special event on discipline and the young child (ages 0-3). Dr. Larry Cheldelin of the Eugene Hospital will speak. Eugene Hospital and Clinic, Conference Room C. Must preregister by May 20th. Lydia Alkire, 687-6217.

The Economics of Peace and Plenty. Francois Duquesne is speaking in this all-day lecture today about the creation of a society marked by peace and plenty for all. Part of the Findhorn workshop series. 9 am-5 pm. \$30. Valley K-ver Inn.

Saturday 21

Children's Events

Children's Peace and Disarmament Parade and Show. All children ages 3-17 are invited to march and perform. Bring a poster, wear a costume, march as a group, sing, dance, act, mime! For Peace! Noon, meet at Saturday Market and march throughout the mall. Wheelchair accessible.

Fairs/Festivals

Saturday Market, a Eugene tradition, today presents *The Tree People*, an original musical group, at noon, and *Moz Wright*, famous vaudeville performer, fire-breather and sword-swallower. In the Park Blocks, 8th & Oak, 10 am-5 pm.

The 13th Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival continues at the U of O. This evening's entertainment features *Obo Ady* and *Kukrudu*. Details, 5/20 listings.

Art

Opening reception for "Portland Comes to Eugene," the new show at Project Space Gallery, featuring 11 artists in sculpture, painting, assemblage, installation, mixed-media. 8 pm, 39 E 10th.

Etc.

Planetarium Shows at WISTEC: *Spring Skies*, 1 pm; *Ancient Astronomy*, 3 pm. 2300 Centennial Blvd., noon-5 pm.

Sweetgrass and Poetry by Women, presented by Women for a Women's Center at Cafe Z, 9:30-11:30 pm, Zoo Zoo's, 454 Willamette. Free.

Rummage Sale Benefit for Eugene Friends Meeting, 9 am-5 pm, 2274 Onyx St, 343-3840. Wheelchair accessible.

Saturday

Concert Music

Senior recitals at the U of O School of Music today will be Julie Koekoek, piano, giving a special lecture and recital, 8 pm in Room 192; Margaret Bartels, harp, presents her recital in Beall Concert Hall, 4 pm; W. Kenneth Crozier, percussion, gives his recital at 8 pm in Beall Hall.

Theatre

The Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan is featured tonight at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. The wide variety of juggling, tumbling and magic acts presented were created and performed in ancient China and continue to fascinate and thrill audiences the world over. 8 pm in Silva Concert Hall.

The Merchant of Venice continues at the U of O. See 5/20 for details.

Slow Dance on the Killing Ground also continues its run at the U of O. See 5/19 for details.

East of the Rockies continues at Very Little Theatre. See 5/19 for details.

Radio

KWAX 91.1 FM today presents: *Featured Work*, Hugo Wolf's secular songs, part 2, 10 am; *Beatrice Foods/Lyric Opera of Chicago*, Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* and Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, 11 am; *NPR Playhouse Presents ... The Price of Silence*, part 3, 6 pm; and *Lord Peter Wimsey*, part 3, 6:30 pm.

The Beatles: The Days in Their Lives, Part 10, the conclusion of a 10-part series, 6-9 pm, KPNW 1120 AM.

Willie Nelson ... Superstar, Country Music Show, 9 am, KEED 1450 AM.

Films

Woman's Eye View, a festival of films for and about women, today looks at the creative spirit. Today's films will be Perry Miller Adeto's *Georgia O'Keeffe* and Nancy Baer's *Alice Neel—Collector of Souls*, portraits of two painters. Also showing will be Portland filmmaker Jan Baross' *As If By Magic*, a film on puppet theatre. 8 pm at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park, Portland. \$3 general, \$2 seniors and children.

Films presented at the U of O tonight are: *Kurosawa's Dersu Uzala*, filmed in the Siberian wilderness, 6:30 & 9:15 pm in 180 PLC, and *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, 7 & 9:15 pm in 150 Geology. \$1.50/\$1.

Workshops/Classes

A Positive Parenting Workshop presented by the Campus Interfaith Ministry, focuses on positive involvement techniques for adult to child/adolescent relationships. 9 am-4 pm, 1414 Kincaid. \$5/person, \$7.50/couple donation requested. Wheelchair accessible, childcare available.

Cancer in the 80's, a two-day workshop to help the public understand and deal with cancer, is presented by the American Cancer Society and LCC. Topics will include treatment, available community resources, and the effects of cancer on the patient, family and friends. Call 484-2211 for more information.

The Spiritual Work of Our Time, a workshop by Eileen Caddy and Francois Duquesne, 9 am-5 pm, at Valley River Inn. 683-7257. \$30. Wheelchair accessible.

Intensive Gardening, slide show and demonstration, 2-4 pm at Far West Federal Savings Bldg, 96 E Broadway. Preregister at Down to Earth, 50 E 11th, or 344-6357. Free.

Relationships—Being Yourself with Others is a one-day workshop integrating aspects of humanistic psychology and yoga philosophy. 9 am-5 pm, Unitarian Church, 40th & Donald, 343-9533. \$25. Wheelchair accessible.

Working for Justice: a day-long series of slide shows, speakers and discussion on issues of imprisonment, sentencing alternatives and building a caring community. Offered by Sponsors, Inc., a non-profit organization which provides transitional services for ex-prisoners. 485-8341. 10 am-4 pm, Eugene Public Library. Free. Wheelchair accessible.

A Workshop by Linda Connor, the Bay Area photographer currently featured at the U of O Museum of Art. For more information call 746-3168 or 342-1510.

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