

# Eugene Downtown

With its next issue, August 4th, *What's Happening* will dedicate a Downtown Page (or section, assuming it catches on). Since we began publication last September, people shopping, living and working Downtown have comprised a very large segment of our readership. Now we'd like to enlarge upon this relationship by encouraging businesses, organizations and people with a Downtown connection to submit "news," fiction, community and business related information, photos, poetry, etc.

After talking with Chuck Hale of Scott's Restaurants, Ray McIver of the Downtown Association, George Brown of the Kiva, and others, *What's Happening* recognized that it could be of service by providing people Downtown a special place to read and write about themselves. Share your opinions, your art and your personal interests with thousands of readers on the Downtown Page.

Send your submissions to: Downtown Page, *What's Happening*, P.O. Box 259, Eugene, OR 97440, or call our Downtown Editor at 484-0519.

—Bill Snyder

## Downtown August 5 & 6

# Annual Bedrace & Sidewalk Sale

Eugene Downtown and area groups and businesses are actively planning (and "training") for the **Sixth Annual Eugene Downtown Bedrace** and the traditional **Sidewalk Sale**. Talking with Connie Bloom and Ray McIver of the Downtown Association, I learned much about this 2-day event. Beginning Friday, August 5th, Downtown merchants will offer many bargains displayed outside their stores, including back-to-school specials. Many Downtown workers are costumed for the event which continues Saturday, Aug 6, date of the Annual Eugene Downtown Bedrace.

This unusual athletic event involves many organizations and businesses, and benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Bed race day is always exciting—featuring entertainment (Mainstage minstrels, music, magic), public judging for *Best Dressed Bed and Team*, awards, a *Parade to Post* and the race up

10th St. Pledges (for MDA) are made, and the contestants race 2 beds at a time. The winning Bed/Team is awarded a rotating trophy and a berth in the District Race at Autzen Stadium, Sept 3. Last year's winners, deFrisco's, won the District and competed at the Regionals in Seattle!

Many organizations and businesses make these events possible. Among many other contributions, the Eugene Downtown Association pays for 10 cent bus rides district wide. Eugene Parks and Rec helps provide the entertainment. And of course the Eugene Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. and the many participants in the Bed Race and the Sidewalk Sale.

If you'd like to be involved—loaner beds are available—contact Pam Wilson of the Muscular Dystrophy Assoc., 686-2753. Look for details in the August 4th edition of *What's Happening*.

—Bill Snyder



Mainstage Theatre Company's production of **WORKING**, the musical based on Studs Terkel's bestselling book, has three more performances on the Eugene Downtown Mall: July 23, 28, and 29.

## Musical on the Mall

# In Review: WORKING

by David Sherman

I went to **Working** with the wrong expectations. I assumed I would see an episodic, revue format musical in which the American work ethic and the virtues of work and working would be subtly preached at me. The token overture was a playing of the "Look for the Union Label" song. Ah ha, I thought. Not only work ethic, but the union work ethic.

Not so. The musical, produced by Mainstage Theatre, is based on Studs Terkel's book *Working*. The musical extracts some two dozen of the interviews and presents them as monologues, scenes or songs. The total effect is not "hooray for work"—but 24 cheers for the human spirit, which can survive, with humor, care and concern for others while doing necessary work.

The production, under the direction of Joe Zingo, moves quickly through these vignettes. Many are humorous, many are moving. It is hard to single individuals out, but I was moved by Denny Guehler as a fireman who once was a policeman. He changed jobs because he didn't like what was happening to his

own attitude towards people. Peg Major's "Just a Housewife" number told of a woman who, in spite of the popular press and what she's been hearing, likes being someone's mother—necessary. Steve Jaquith reminisces about growing up as a migrant worker as he passes out leaflets at a supermarket—urging shoppers to boycott grapes. LeeAnne Robertson opens the second act as a waitress who entertains—or confuses—her customers with her fantasies. Ken Major is a gas meter reader who relieves boredom by kicking dogs or surprising a sun-bathing housewife. You see, if her halter top is untied and falls, you gain points. It relieves the boredom.

This boredom is a theme that runs through the show. Work is boring. But the people keep at it—working. The music and lyrics are by a half-dozen composers. Lydia Lord leads a small, on-stage combo that provides effective accompaniment.

Although boredom is a constant undertone from these workers, the production is certainly anything but boring. The stories reach and affect the au-

dience. People have wonderfully unique ways of dealing with boredom. And why? Why bother with work at all? Denny Guehler, as Mike, a steelworker, says it clearly when he talks about his children and the hopes that are passed on to children by parents. Kevin Boling and Neal Nelson, as a father and son, explain poetically the emotional relationships between generations.

Another reason for working is the ability to point to something and say, "Look. I did that; I made a difference. That brick house, that building, that steel would not be here without me. The world is different because I have been here."

**Working** will be presented again on July 23, 28, and 29 on the Central Plaza of the Eugene Downtown Mall. Tickets, at \$3 in advance and \$4 at the gate, are available at several downtown outlets or by calling Mainstage Theatre at 683-7207.

(Reviewer David Sherman is an LCC professor and member of the Oregon Arts Commission.)

## WHAT IS ARICA?

Arica is a not-for-profit educational organization—a school—which has been offering courses and self-study materials since 1971. Arica provides a practical method for achieving greater self-understanding, reducing stress, and developing greater resources of strength to deal with the complexities of modern life. Sam Keen has called Arica "the university of higher consciousness."

An introductory, experiential workshop will be offered Saturday, August 6, from 1-4 pm. Included in the program will be:

- Psychocalisthenics, an introduction to a complete exercise routine for the body and psyche.
- Stress Reduction & Vitality Generation Exercises
- Videotape of Oscar Ichazo, founder/designer of Arica

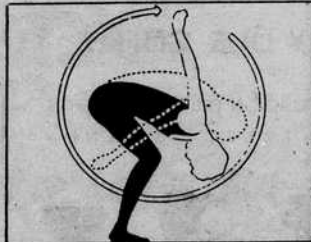
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## PSYCHOCALISTHENICS

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