

Announcing the 1987 Lane Literary Awards

The First Annual Lane Literary Awards, sponsored by Lane Literary Guild, Lane Regional Arts Council and *What's Happening*, is now accepting previously unpublished short fiction and poetry from writers residing in Lane County.

Works by selected writers will be included in *Pacifica*, a special literary supplement, to be published in the September 17 issue of *What's Happening*.

The two award winners in each category will be invited to read as part of Lane Literary Guild's Eugene Celebration Reading, at the Hult Center on September 27.

Each award winner will also receive \$50.

Jurors for the Awards will be the featured guest readers at the Eugene Celebration Reading. They are poet Judy Grahn and science fiction writer John Varley.

- Writers must reside in Lane County, Oregon.
- Writers may submit either poetry or fiction, but not both.
- All submissions must be typed: fiction (double-spaced) not to exceed 1500 words; poetry not to exceed 5 poems or 300 lines.
- Two copies of each work are required, without the author's name on them.
- One separate cover sheet should list the writer's name, address, and title of each work submitted.
- Work samples will not be returned.
- A \$3 reader's fee for each writer must accompany the submission. Make checks payable to Lane Literary Guild.
- Entries should be mailed to: Lane Literary Awards, Lane Regional Arts Council, 411 High St., Eugene, OR 97401.
- Deadline for receipt of entries: 4 pm, July 9, 1987.
- Entrants will be notified by mail of the jurors' decision by August 15.

Dancing on the Edge

Continued from cover

spliced sheets, it's just not worth it.) Experienced spiders are so comfortable with certain routes on the Butte that they easily free climb without ropes. Once a route has become too easy for them they can complicate matters by climbing with only one (or even no) hands or eliminating certain key holds. Contriving climbs in this way is a proven method to vastly improve one's technique.

Gawkers (in cowboy hats, pointed boots and sun glasses) pose the inevitable question: "How'd y'all git them ropes up there?" There are two possible answers to this query. At the Butte one has the option of walking up by a trail and running the rope through bolts anchored at the top. Thus the activity is appropriately named "top roping." The climber ties into one end of the rope and the belayer on the ground takes up the slack during the ascent. If the climber falls the belayer stops the rope from moving with friction and catches the

fall. The climber can literally hang on the rope or even be lowered to the ground from this "yo yo" configuration. With this type of insurance one can safely try any climb.

"Lead climbing" on the other hand is a more serious proposition requiring a climber to seriously assess skills and limitations. When leading, a climber brings the rope up the rock. Pieces of protection (called chocks, stoppers, friends, etc.) are placed in available cracks and the climber then clips the rope to them after passing above. In a lead fall the climber will fall twice the distance down as he/she is above the highest piece of protection. This is assuming the protection holds. The dependability of the protection varies with where and how it was placed. The ideal is to place "bomb proof pro." Conversely the leader's nightmare is to fall and "zipper the pro" . . . resulting in a ground fall.

More and more women are enjoy-

ing climbing. Novice women often progress faster than men. What they might lack in upper body strength they often make up for by superior balance control and flexibility. There are excellent women climbers (highly skilled and strong) at the Butte. One often sees entire families climbing together. It's humbling to watch a ten year old scamper fearlessly up the rock.

On certain days U of O classes monopolize the area. (You'll recognize them by the yellow and orange helmets.) Eugene Parks and Recreation also offers courses in rock climbing through the outdoor program at the River House. In general the atmosphere is friendly and supportive and one can almost always find someone who is willing to trade a belay.

The columns are comprised of igneous rock known as columnar basalt which formed when molten lava cooled (during the oligocene period) some 32,000,000 years ago. The contraction of cooling lava resulted in vertical stress fractures or shrinkage joints. It is into these 32,000,000 year old cracks that climbers forcibly jam fingers, hands, fists and feet.

Controversial chalk dots the rock. Some say it aids their climbing by enhancing the grip of sweaty hands. Others criticize it for its visual impact, often adding that it serves mainly as a psychological crutch. On one day a climber cleaned chalk off the rock with a tooth brush. Eventually two weeks of winter rain will wash the slate clean until it's dry enough to climb again.

There is a guide to climbs at Skinner Butte available for \$1.50 through Parks and Rec at the River House. Forty-six routes are described and rated. Some of the most creative names include "Dastardly Crack," "Discipline Jam," "Limpdick," "Sprained Thumb" and "Satisfaction." A climb is traditionally named and rated (on a complex scale of difficulty) by the person who bags the first ascent. An additional 51 contrived variations are described for those so inspired. And of course people are constantly making up their own variations of climbs at the columns.

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