

Deadland

by O.J. Cooper

The party goes on this weekend as the Grateful Dead roll into town for the first time in four years. The big event (concert? show? experience?) will be outdoors at Autzen Stadium around 2 pm on Sunday, July 19. To make matters more exciting, Bob Dylan will be there, playing with the Dead and alone.

An unsuspecting visitor to Eugene might perceive the local scene nearly as bizarre as Alice discovered Wonderland.

"How funny it'll seem to come out among the people that walk with their heads downward! . . . but shall I have to ask them what the name of the country is. . . . Please Ma'am, is this New Zealand? Or Australia?"

No, Alice, this is Grateful Dead Land, a place so strange, so unique, so fun that some people come more for the atmosphere than the music.

A stroll through Grateful Dead Land is in some ways like traveling to the third world. It is a combination of the Old City in Jerusalem, an African market and a South American mercado.

Dead Heads conduct business with their wares (jewelry, tie-dye, crafts, etc.) spread out on the ground or in make-shift stands. If the weather is cool they are wrapped in ponchos and blankets . . . many without shoes. Hippie children run about in tiny tie-dye outfits, dresses and pants. Tie-dye, no stranger to Eugene, is everywhere in Grateful Dead Land.

Guitars, too, are all about. An occasional flute. Percussion instruments group together providing a continual

rhythm, or polyrhythms. Harmonicas and fiddles jam blues, folk, bluegrass, but mostly Dead. Sometimes they're in tune. And there are tape players all about, nearly all of them playing Dead. Lots of live bootlegs. An occasional recorded album.

The food in Grateful Dead Land is some of the healthiest and best-tasting cuisine anywhere. Enterprising folks sell sandwiches of tofu, avocado, and tempeh with tomatoes and sprouts. Maybe cheese. Maybe peanut butter and jelly. Sometimes soup. Always grain breads. Prices are extremely reasonable, usually on a sliding scale with bartering encouraged. Hygiene is somewhat better than the third world. Various desserts, cookies, cakes, teas, smoothies and punches abound (some of them spiked).

Hopefully the residue left behind will not be extreme. In a mailer from the Dead a plea is made. "We need to treat the urban jungles we pass through the way the Sierra Club suggests we leave wilderness: 'Leave nothing but footprints,' or we could be a very popular band that cannot find a place to play." This cannot be over-emphasized.

Since Eugene is home to some of the original Merry Pranksters and is within striking distance of more, the show will probably be one of those electric kinds where special things happen. Some may argue that this always happens at Dead shows. Nevertheless, there is an apparent presence of energy, a type of zing or sparkle which one sees, hears, perceives and feels when things are really happen-



Bob Dylan joins The Grateful Dead Sunday, July 19 at Autzen Stadium for an afternoon concert.

ing. And they happen with the family . . . so we're in for it this time. Last time they played here Kesey showed with the Thunder Machine. No promises, not even rumors, but then again most surprises are good.

"For, you see, so many out-of-the-way things had happened lately that Alice had begun to think that very few things were really impossible."

Folks that work straight jobs during the day will don their tie-dye and play hippie (or maybe they are playing yuppie on normal days). Among today's youth the Dead have a considerable following. These include children of hippies that are old enough to go to concerts on their own now, as well as a strong contingency of "en-

lightened" (to a degree anyway) suburbanites.

The event is a tribal pow wow. A few babies will be conceived. Some people will find religion, others will lose it. Some will lose money. Some will lose drugs, shoes, tickets or clothes. Others with better luck will find such treasures. Some may pick up social diseases. Relationships will sprout, others will fade away. A few will inevitably have bad trips . . . some will become ill. Help them if you see them. White Bird will also be there to help.

Some 100 show veterans may complain that the show was unexciting . . . the same old thing. (Although it should be new for most of us to see

Dylan play with the Dead.) Some will consider this a Bob Dylan concert with the Grateful Dead. Dead Land, however, is where the Dead are.

Others will say it was the most incredible concert they've ever been to. A few will sneak a bootleg tape out, although because of Dylan, no taping is allowed. And most will dance and dance and dance and smile and beam and feel and see and. . . .

For those still looking for a party Kingfish and Nine Days Wonder will be playing at the WOW Hall (CCPA) on both Saturday and Sunday nights. Tickets are \$6 advance and \$7 at the door.

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Join us for a weekend of just relaxing in the country to enjoy some wonderful food, good music and great wine.

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Nicaraguan Friendship Day

continued from cover

ly have U.S. embargos and the Contra war imposed hardships, but Nicaragua has experienced a serious drought this year." For this reason the Council has initiated a campaign to collect a boatload of wheat, powdered milk and cooking oil to send to Nicaragua.

The commemorative buttons are available for a minimum \$3 donation at the Council office and at the Fiesta. All money raised from the button campaign will go directly to humanitarian aid projects.

Each button is numbered and these numbers will be used in a raffle at the Fiesta. Items to be raffled include coffee from Custom Roasting, a ceramic piece from Opus 5 Gallery, a hair style by Samuel Arellano, dinners at Cafe Zenon and The Charcuterie, and a fine set of gold earrings from Robin Mix of Fifth St. Public Market. Individuals must be present at the Fiesta to win.

The following organizations are co-sponsoring the event (at press time): Associated Students of University of Oregon, the UO Foreign Student Organization, CALS, Rape Crisis Network, and GALA.

For more information or to volunteer for the Fiesta or any other of the Council's humanitarian aid projects, you may visit them at their new home at 511 E. 12th Ave., or call 484-5867.