

Five Down, More To Go

by Jim Stiak

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

A warm sun lingered long into the autumn of 1982. The Hult Center had just opened its doors and Eugene's third TV station signed on after a week of "technical difficulty." After 10 days in a coma, local legend Russell Dell—better known as Stupid—died of mushroom poisoning. The Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh applied for permanent residency in the U.S. while his followers launched a write-in campaign for mayor of Antelope. Marijuana plants were being found in all the usual locations, and a U.S. Forest Service employee quit his job after the agency tried to discredit his sighting of Bigfoot. "I'm going to kill one!" he vowed.

Seven people were dead in Chicago from cyanide-laced Tylenol, and a wave of product tamperings swept the nation. Acid was found in eye-drops and mouthwash, poison in all sorts of pills, and at least 40 cities cancelled Halloween trick-or-treating. Nonetheless, E.T. and PacMan costumes sold briskly.

The Washington Public Power Supply System—WPPSS—was in court, trying to forestall the largest bond default in U.S. history, while its three top managers were given hefty pay hikes. Car manufacturer John DeLorean was arrested in Los Angeles with several kilos of cocaine, and Saudi Sheik Mohammed al-Fassi told the Pennsylvania steel mill town of Midland that he would give them three million dollars if its 2200 registered voters signed a petition not to vote for Reagan in 1984.

G. Gordon Liddy, ordered to pay the rest of his \$40,000 Watergate fine, said he needed it all to send his kids to college. "They'll just give it away for food stamps in Zimbabwe," he cried.

Nationwide joblessness hit its highest mark since 1940, and the president's son went on unemployment. The Polish government banned the Solidarity labor movement. Ronald Reagan, his aides confidently plied on money and alcohol, pledged a war on drugs. A second witness died mysteriously in ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson's trial for aiding Libyan

terrorists. Bombs exploded in Belfast, mines went off in Beirut, and thousands of unarmed villagers were massacred by government troops in El Salvador, while guerillas cut the country in half.

In Seoul, South Korea, the Reverence Sun Myung Moon married 5800 blue-suited grooms and white-gowned brides, who were to abstain from sex for 40 days. In St. Louis, there was celebration as the Cardinals beat the Brewers in the seventh game of the World Series. But there was no joy in couch potato-land when the National Football League went on strike.

... a front page quote from Woody Allen and notice of the 39th birthday of LSD marked the premier issue of What's Happening.

Into this confused world came Eugene's new weekly newspaper, filling part of the void left by the demise of the *Willamette Valley Observer* earlier in the year. Eight pages of calendars, announcements, advertisements, a couple of short articles by Lois Wadsworth, a front page quote from Woody Allen and notice of the 39th birthday of LSD marked the premier issue of *What's Happening*.

Five years later, the autumn sun again lingered long. The Hult Center is half a decade in debt, and Eugene's fourth TV station has signed on. WPPSS is still trying to find a way out of their nuclear mess. Bigfoot has yet to be killed, the NFL has struck again, and bombs and bullets still strike all the usual trouble spots.

What's Happening has grown to

more than advertisements and announcements, doubling its size and its staff, covering local issues and events, profiling people and places. Its three publishers have somehow been able to put it out every Thursday, pay their writers small sums, acquire a national columnist, and—more or less—make a living for themselves. If it can survive, and even expand, through the morass of the mid-eighties, what can the next five years hold in store?

In the fall of 1992, the sun was warmer than ever, with no ozone layer left to halt its rays. The Obie Center for the Dying Arts, formerly the Hult Center, fell into receivership, and Eugene's fifth TV station, part of the "aging lifestyles" network, signed on the air. Mayor Wooten declared a state of emergency in the Fifth Street Public Market, as disgruntled shop-owners kidnapped the entire Coffee Corner in response to a threatened doubling of their rents—again.

Lava flows from the eruption of the Three Sisters reached Hoodoo, ending any chance of an early opening of ski season. President Paul Simon, stumping for re-election, appeared on the "Graceland Reunion" tour with his songwriting namesake, and Ollie North still refused to pay his \$75,000 Contragate fine. "They'll just give it to communist babies in Nicaragua," he protested.

The editors of the *Register-Guard* defended their decision not to publish stories critical of the city government, saying, "We're only formalizing what we've always done." The editors of *What's Happening*, having just returned from a two-week consciousness expansion in the Himalayas, announced their support for a proposal to declare Eugene a "cigarette-free zone." Stung by repeated inaccuracies in the music bulletin, they renamed the paper *Maybe What Could Happen*. Nonetheless, as part of their tenth anniversary party, before they set off on a forty-day "transformational exploration" of the Andes, they also offered a 100% pay raise to all their writers and photographers.

Well, hey, anything's possible, no?

Wise birds
do their
gift shopping at
Made in Oregon



We feature Oregon specialty foods—boxed, in baskets, or by themselves.

Open 10:30-5:30 Mon-Sat
295 E. 5th 343-5051
Daily UPS pickup

poppi's
GREEK · TAVERNA



Greek Food,
Wine and Spirit

Still in the same location

675 East 13th • Eugene, Oregon • 343-0846
Closed Tuesdays • Tables Outside

Beads • Beading Supplies

A wide array of styles, sizes and colors, including seed beads, bugle beads, pony beads and Austrian crystals.

All the extras to create your own unique jewelry.

Imports • Jewelry

Custom Beadwork

Natural Fiber Clothing

Cotton casuals in rich hand-dyed colors. Shirts, Dresses, Pants, Tops, Leggings, Tights and more.

Hand-Printed T-Shirts

Cards • Gift Items

Custom Screenprinting

Banyan Tree
485 E. 13th • 485-0333

End of the Month
COUPONS
\$55 (includes color)

Limited spaces—place your order now! 484-0519.

Deadline: Monday noon, October 26 for the October 29th issue.

JADE PALACE

CANTONESE & SZECHUAN
CUISINE

Professional Wok Cooking

DINNER SPECIAL \$3.75

After 3 pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY LUNCH SPECIAL
OPEN AT NOON

906 W. 7th & Blair • 344-9523

Jan Harris Returns!

She's cutting hair, giving perms, and doing scalp massages
at: Jenny's Hair and Company.

2833 Willamette #D (across from Southtowne) • 484-2894



Monday-Saturday
9 am to 6 pm
Sunday 10 am to 5 pm
Between Oak & Pearl
in the 5th St. District
140 E. 5th Ave.
345-2391



"ON SALE" FEATURES:

Maple Syrup—\$1.99/pound (all month)
All Rice Cakes—10% markdown
O.G. Valencia Oranges—\$13.50 a box (35½¢/pound)
All Granolas—10% markdown
Organic Coffee—Sailors Choice Blend—10% markdown

• ORGANICALLY GROWN PRODUCE—LARGEST SELECTION IN EUGENE
• CHEESE CUT TO ORDER
• OILS, TAMARI, MOLASSES & HONEY ON TAP
• CUSTOMER SERVICE and CONSISTENTLY LOW PRICES
• RETAIL and WHOLESALE

KZAM 95¢, 102¢, 132¢...



LEGAL AND MEDIATION
SERVICES

Larry Deckman
—Attorney At Law—

484-3782

Reasonable Rates