



up on a roof where they can't get them down.

Fans who dine out invariably order one-half liter of the establishment's best sack, and capon cordon bleu. Cheap tourists order Hamlet burgers. One afternoon when I developed a craving for some authentic Shakespearean food, I set out to find a Hamlet burger. But Hamlet hasn't played in Ashland since 1974 and is out of season, and I had to settle for a Hamlet omelette. Hamlet makes a better play than an omelette.

The Shakespeare fan has other identifying characteristics:

— He rides in a Winnebago and stays in a campground.

— He carries a brass band and a blow torch for use at 6 in the morning in campground.

— He walks around saying things like "What he and perforce, where's the toilet?"

— He wears a "Shakespeare's my friend" tee shirt.

When they have nothing better to do, fans go watch the plays. Shakespeare had a hand in several of this year's offerings. *The Tempest*, *Richard the Third*

and *The Taming of The Shrew* play in the outdoor Elizabethan theater. The stage on the outdoor theater resembles a mansion and has that certain Shakespearean look about it. Two indoor theaters are reserved for realist plays: *Mother Courage*, *Tartuffe*, *Miss Julie*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*, *Night of the Tribades* and *Timon of Athens*.

Timon of Athens was written by Shakespeare, but it is trying to live this down. This play has been stripped of Elizabethan drapery and placed in modern times. The actors wear tennis shorts, ice cream suits and underwear. The play centers around Timon, a man who at first trusts his fellow men, but who ends up condemning them as scoundrels. The audience usually applauds anyway. It is the only Shakespearean play allowed indoors.

When going to Ashland, it is best to bring along a large stock of companions. They run out fast. It takes a devoted Shakespearean to survive *Richard the Third*, a play about a Zodiac killer who murders people for three hours and then is killed by Glen Campbell.

It is best to test companions before leaving. Shakespearean fans must have a certain mettle. Those thinking about joining the Shakespeare club should not get sick at the sight of imitation Elizabethan brown trim. They should have a high tolerance of the words "Ye Old" and not be frightened by extra e's at the end of words. And they should find the sight of five people hopping around in green jumpsuits and waving lace handkerchieves not in the least bit funny.

Straub challenged on charge claiming conflict of interest

The president of a newly formed injured worker's organization called Tuesday for a continued investigation into conflict of interest charges against Roy Green, Workers' Compensation Board chair.

Carl Blair, 39, of Springfield, the head of the Committee for Injured Workers of America, Inc. (CIWA), said Gov. Bob Straub's dismissal of the conflict of interest charges against Green is premature. The charges should be investigated further to determine whether the stock Green now holds in the Employee Benefits Insurance Company of Portland represents a conflict of interest, he says.

Blair, an injured worker who started the non-profit CIWA last month to organize injured workers around the state, said Green's interest in the insurance company is a clear conflict of interest and that Green should resign his position.

Blair first called for Green's resignation July 4 during a news story broadcast by KEZI-TV. Blair said Green's continued interest in the insurance company was costing the state's businesses money and cheating the injured workers out of what was rightfully theirs.

The Worker's Compensation Board has been wasting millions of dollars a year by sending injured workers out of state for med-

ical examinations, Blair said. But that may just be the beginning.

Blair also said that by keeping the claims against workers' compensation insurance low, Green has made a profit on his stock in the Employee Benefits Insurance Company that is worth well over a million dollars.

"For Governor Straub to say that there is no conflict of interest makes him either an idiot or a liar," Blair said. "I challenge them (Straub and Green) to meet me on the (KEZI-TV) news, on the air, and to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there isn't a conflict of interest here."

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