

By John Harris



More than spectators

"Eugene is a sports town."

This statement is bandied about quite often in the Emerald City, and it carries credence. Eugene is a sports town, but not in the traditional sense of the phrase.

Usually when the people of a city are said to be lovers of sport it means they love the local teams they watch. Chicago has the "Bleacher Bums." Portland has "Blazermania." Whatever you call them, though, they're all fans, spectators.

Eugene has its share of loyal and rabid fans. The Eugene Ems, the local minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, drew an average of 1,500 persons per contest this summer, twice as many as any of the other seven teams in the Northwest League. And then there are those "Deranged Idiots," who intimidate Duck basketball foes each winter in Mac Court.

But the people of Eugene are known for their participation in sport; not for their watching. In a Sports Illustrated article describing Aspen, Colorado's relationship to sport, one of the locals noted that the people of Aspen are more concerned with looking the part of athletes than actually getting actively involved. He said that more residents have flashy sweat suits and ski racks on the backs of their cars, but not many are truly dedicated to physical fitness, not like the people in Eugene, Oregon.

Eugene, of course, is the jogging capital, if what the billboards say is true. Only here could you call the sports editor of the local paper at 11 a.m. and be told, "He's out jogging right now. Call back in an hour." And not many other towns have jogging paths to compare to Pre's Trail, seven miles of scenic and comfortable running routes winding behind Autzen Stadium.

Yet, Eugene is much more than just a jogging town. Someone from the Chamber of Commerce should climb up and add "et al" to the billboards, because Eugeneans can't be joggers only; there's too much else to do.

The city's convenient location, just a couple of hours from both the Pacific Coast and the Cascade Mountains, and its proximity to a multitude of lakes and rivers provides easy access to a plethora of outdoor activities. Why stay home and watch Reggie Jackson bunt on television when you could be pulling in a steelhead or kayaking through a class three or four rapid? The people in Eugene aware of their surroundings don't delay their trip to the McKenzie River for a moment to give this question a thought.

Within its city limits Eugene has a multitude of facilities for recreation as well. Despite rapid urbanization during the past decade, the city has managed to maintain 69 parks totalling 1,270 acres, and there are also 50 miles in bike trails with another 100 miles worth planned for the future.

The Eugene Parks and Recreation Department, one of the finest programs of its kind in the country, is an accurate gauge of the view Eugeneans have toward the importance of participation in sport. Through its various programs one can learn and participate in hiking, water and bicycling activities and four community centers program recreational activities such as basketball, volleyball and soccer leagues depending upon the needs of the community.

Regardless of whether you want to become or remain physically fit, Eugene provides the facilities and the atmosphere for it. Enjoy.

NOPPYS.

The foot massage you wear.



Put on a pair of Noppy Sandals, and hundreds of tiny fingers will massage your feet with every step you take.

Birkenstock.

Monday-Saturday, 11-6

Atrium (2nd floor) 10th & Olive

687-0065



BRAD'S BODY & FENDER

8th & Grant

343-9283

You need Brad's bad—

For complete auto body work and paint jobs.

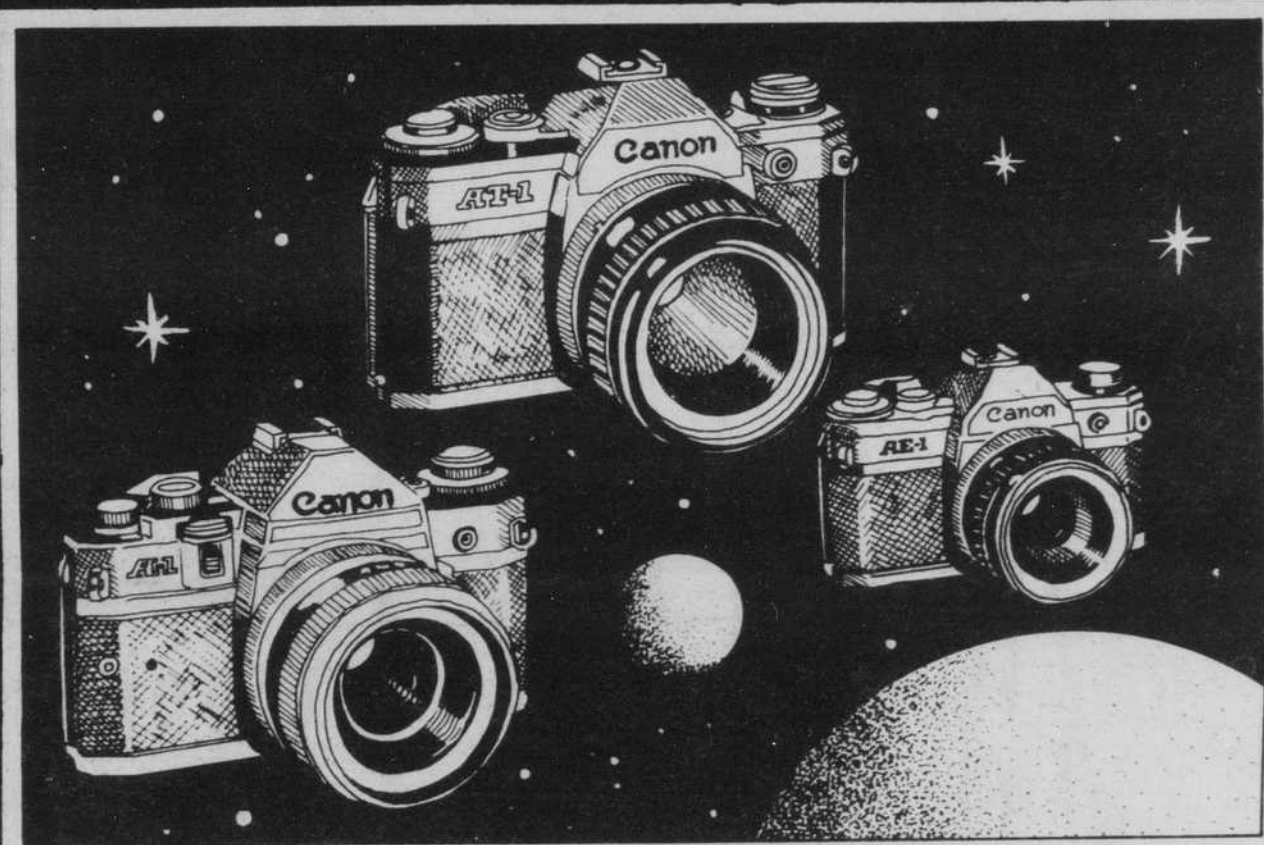
Foreign cars are our specialty.

At Brad's, we give you free estimates, car rentals and written guarantee of satisfaction.

We take insurance work gladly.

Duck Boosters

over 30 years in Eugene



HEAVENLY BODIES

Canon A-1

- Six mode exposure control for any situation
- Total digital control and-readout
- Easy handling and exceptional control flexibility

Canon AT-1

- Match-needle CdS metering for critical exposures
- Super compact and light weight
- Uses more than 40 Unsurpassed Canon FD and FL series lenses
- Extra large, bright viewfinder and specially designed body for faster focusing and easier handling

Canon AE-1

- Fully electronic automatic exposure single-lens reflex camera
- Handsome, light weight, compact and easy to use
- Unbearable performance at an unbeatable price.

DOWN TO EARTH VALUE

Dot Dotson's Buyers Bonus Book

- 30 day unlimited exchange privilege
- 100% service protection
- Your first roll of film and processing free
- Free camera class
- Discount store coupons on the most wanted accessories



WE COMPLETE THE PICTURE

430 E. 11th.

1668 Willamette

Valley River Center

N.W. Wall Bend, Or.