

Rip-offs

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We get a lot of complaints from students over there," Tutrone says, adding that his business record is spotless.

"I belong to the better business bureau," Tutrone says. Eugene has no Better Business Bureau and the Portland Better Business Bureau does not serve the Eugene area. The Eugene Chamber of Commerce has "never heard of him," says manager Jeanette McCulloch.

One agency that has heard of Tutrone is the state Financial Fraud Division.

Jan Margosian, a consumer information coordinator, said one complaint had been filed but that the actual file was in Portland in the hands of the State Justice Department.

Ole Ordal, an investigator with the justice department, says a complaint was filed against National Sales Liquidators in March by Mark Reese, a University student.

Reese complained that he bought defective stereo equipment from National Sales Liquidators at an auction in Lane County and could not get the merchandise exchanged or his money refunded.

Ordal contacted Tutrone, who then wrote to Ordal saying he had leased his building to a firm from California called National Sales Liquidators for an auction and "although it was not our sale, we replaced it (the merchandise)," Ordal says.

"He's saying it's not his company," Ordal says. "It could be that somebody owns two different chains of retail stores. The other explanation is that the man was lying."

The State Corporations Division has no record of a business called National Sales Liquidators, says Carole Gunter, a clerical specialist. Every business that operates in the state is required, by law, to register the business name and "the party of interest" in the business with the corporations division.

Expo National Sales Liquidators is registered with the corporations division. Keith Boyd, Tutrone's attorney, is listed as the party of interest.

But Tutrone says he was doing Reese, and himself, a favor by exchanging the equipment.

Tutrone also says the owner of the company that held the auction, Pierre Turgeon, is a personal friend and would reimburse Tutrone for the equipment.

Turgeon is the owner of The Liquidators out of Garden City, Calif.

Tutrone says that National Sales Liquidators is now doing business as Modern Electronics, a company

that lists Turgeon as the party of interest.

But Shawn Sonowski, the manager of the Eugene Modern Electronics store says he doesn't know anything about National Sales Liquidators. When informed that Tutrone says National Sales Liquidators was what is now Modern Electronics, Sonowski says "No. Not true. That isn't true."

And far from being friendly, Sonowski says there is a lot of animosity between Modern Electronics and Expo National Sales Liquidators, because Sonowski went to work for Turgeon rather than Tutrone.

"I've known him (Tutrone) for about a year-and-a-half and I like the man as a human being," Sonowski says. "I don't particularly care for some of his business decisions. In the way things are run, like that, that's why I didn't go to work for him."

But Tutrone staunchly defends his business practices, and his relationship with Turgeon.

"We have a policy, 90 days. Anything we sell is 90 days," Tutrone says.

"We're the only stereo store in this city that will give 1) an exchange across the counter for an item that's broken and 2) if the customer is so dissatisfied with that particular item, if he payed cash for it I will give him his cash back, if he wrote a check for it, I will give him a check back, if he used VISA or Mastercharge we'll write him a credit on his VISA or Mastercharge," Tutrone says.

Bagby says he did eventually exchange his merchandise but he is still upset because the cassette deck he bought is not the one the salesman showed him.

Rader's past corporation, "One Stop Sound Shop" in Eugene, was penalized heavily by the Lane County District Attorney's office a few years ago for illegal sales practices at a Eugene auction, says Josh Marquis, the prosecutor in the case.

Kittredge leans forward in his straight-back chair, emphasizing his point. "I'll tell you straight up that it is well recognized that (the University) is the biggest industry in Eugene," he says.

Kittredge emphasizes that part of his job is to look out for the student-consumer. He also says that by the nature of the students lifestyle, they become easy targets. "Students shouldn't hesitate to come to us. If they get the shaft they should come up here and tell us."

But Kittredge says the first thing a student should do is follow the "caveat emptor" addage.

"You've got to check the water before you jump in," Kittredge says.

LA Times writer to speak

Los Angeles Times staff writer Robert Scheer, a five-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, will speak on "Nuclear War and U.S.-Soviet Relations" today at 3 p.m. in 180 PLC.

Scheer, who has been chief editor of Ramparts Magazine and West Coast editor of New Times, recently authored "With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush and Nuclear War."

Scheer, who also wrote "America After Nixon" and "How the U.S. Got Involved in Viet-

nam," is being co-sponsored by Students for a Nuclear Free Future and the Faculty Arms Control Group.

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Correction

La Bottine Souriante did not appear Monday, as stated in Monday's Emerald. The concert is Thursday at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. The Emerald apologizes for any inconveniences this causes.



Performing, on stage

'Picnic' shows small-town life

The revived, improved Oregon Reperatory Theatre is back with a winner, this time at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

The production of "Picnic," William Inge's Pulitzer Prize winning drama, is one of the most professional and impressive ORT plays Eugene audiences have been treated to. It is a delight to see a group of such talented local actors given the opportunity to perform in a professional setting. The play certainly deserves to be staged at the Hult.

"Picnic" is a story about a small Kansas town and the characters who live there. For some it is a simple and secure small-town existence. Others, like the restless young Madge, portrayed by University junior Kim Anderson, and the frustrated school teacher (Chilton Peterson), find it stifled and conformist; a life that denies them the chance to fulfill their desires.

"Picnic" is not an action-packed play, but rather a drama about human feelings and relationships. It is also about change and the inevitable cycles of life.

The cast is uniformly strong and capable. No one actor stands out as "The Star," but certainly two performances are especially noteworthy.

Sulwyn Sparks as Madges's ugly-duckling sister Millie, brings confidence, charm and intelligence to her role.

Chilton Peterson as Miss Sydney, the spinster school teacher, creates a completely believable and complex character. Both actresses are perfectly natural on stage, and are constantly engaging the audience's attention.

Director David Lunney is to be commended. The play moves quickly and evenly as the relationships between characters are clearly developed.

Jerry Williams' set beautifully creates a small town essence and provides a wonderful background to the acting. Paul Dustrud's lighting is an important asset on the stage.

The combined efforts of Williams and Nancy Jullian, the costume designer, make you feel as if you are seated on the edge of the Kansas prairie, rather than the Soreng Theatre.

"Picnic" plays Nov. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 6 at 2 p.m.

It is definitely worth making the effort to get off campus to see.

Maria Borella

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