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for a show, not comfortable with people setting up camp literally minutes after the shows are announced and confirmed. But such are Grateful Dead fans. It's inevitable — part of that Grateful Dead experience. The chant "Flores para los muertos," is transformed on the tongues of would-be concert-goers. "Tickets for the Dead. I need tickets for the Dead." The Hult Center adapted to the ticket-seeking throngs for the recent concerts by selling tickets only by mail. Still, for the three days of concerts, there are fans scuttling everywhere over the Eugene Centre. The businessmen mingle with the campers.

The response of the community is notably different; in nearly two decades Eugeneans have grown accustomed to the arrival and performances of the Grateful Dead and their out-oftown fans. Indeed, there are cynics — people who want the band to get back on the bus and stay there. But many citizens, the people-watchers, are usually at least mildly intrigued with the parade of those colorful, loyal fans who follow the Grateful Dead from show to show — those fans who evoke mixed reactions ranging from fear and loathing to delight and awe, the ones who carry an aura of mystique and abandon with them on their transcontinental, life-aboard school buses.

Someone once said that people who like the Grateful Dead often possess "an advanced sense of adventure." The collection of these adventure seekers is an interesting sample of humanity at its mellowest. "Yeah, it's a real cultural experience," says John of the carnival-like atmosphere which pervades when the Grateful Dead is in the spotlight.

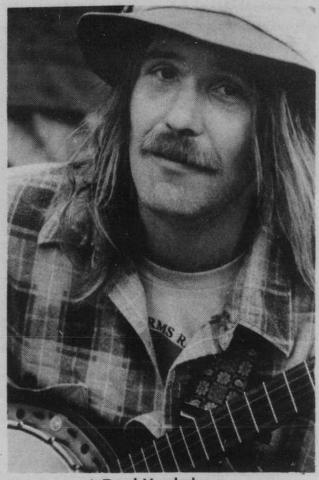
## But aren't they unruly?

The Dead Heads travel with the band, from concert to concert, staying with friends, and friends of friends, living in hotels and camping, as Bob usually does.

The Grateful Dead was one of the first rock bands to step onstage at the Hult (during August of 1983) and play to a full house. Skeptics were worried about the consequences of having the band's fans invade the new hall, but the shows went on as scheduled. That the Grateful Dead was booked in the hall a second time suggests something positive about the band's following, which John calls "the most mellow fans at any concert" he's ever seen. Still, the band and the fans draw some negative responses.

"Most of the people I work with don't know the Grateful Dead," says John. "But they have a really negative opinion of them (the band)." John surmises that maybe it's the band's name that turns





A Dead Head player

people away. "People think the music is like Led Zepplin or Kiss or something."

Bob Luby, one of the 44 Oregon Events Enterprises security guards who covered the Grateful Dead shows, agreed with John on the behavior of fans. "It's been a real mellow crowd," he said, the night of the second concert at the recent Eugene shows. "Most people here just want to dance and have a good time," he says. He sees his role as one of strict necessity for safety reasons; the guards are mainly concerned with safety, and they don't have to play much of a police role. "We don't want to intensify things. We just want people to have fun," he said.

## This year the Grateful Dead. Next year the Grand Canyon.

Reasonably enough, many of those people who follow the Grateful Dead are, in their unique way, typical Americans who keep in tune with the work ethic for much of the year, and see their trip as a unique version of the modern vacation — a few months of doing exactly what they want with no telephones ringing in the background.

Many of the Dead Heads are merchants who sell Grateful Dead paraphernalia to replenish funds while on the road. At the most recent concert, tie-dyed T-shirts, bumper stickers and Jerry Garcia postcards were all big sellers, not to mention the vegetable sandwiches sold by a rollerskater.

Another Dead Head, Anne, is a petite woman whose loose blond hair flows down almost to her waist. At the Eugene shows she was peddling some of those signature Dead T-shirts. She was selling them for friends; her day-job is a bit less exciting. "I'm a veterinary assistant in Portland," she laughed. "I just came down for these shows."

There are entertainers who play their music and juggle fire in hopes of getting enough money to go in to see the shows. And of course, there are

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drugs.

"Opium. I've got mushrooms and opium," breathed one shaggy-headed, glazed-eyed character. Everyone took his presence for granted, or at least pretended to.

## Try it, you'll like it. Maybe.

A Grateful Dead concert is a happening. In fact, it's like nothing else in the world.

