

# Adieu, Wheatgerm

By Michael Clapp  
Of the Emerald

Jerry "Wheatgerm" Campbell's friends, fans and political supporters gathered Thursday evening in the warm July sunshine to bid farewell to Eugene's own cosmic candidate.

They came with wicker picnic baskets and Styrofoam coolers and sat sipping wine from sparkling glasses and chugging Blitz beer from brown quart bottles, waiting for the man who garnered more than 4,000 votes and finished third in May's mayoral race.

Wheatgerm's buddies from the On The Edge comedy group entertained the onlookers with skits and songs, warming them up for the guru of granola. Paco Madero, the "Wayne Newton of Latin America," introduced Wheatgerm.

Paco, who met Wheatgerm when he fell out of a boxcar in front of Eugene's Amtrak station on a return trip from picking apples near Spokane, Wash., spoke of Wheatgerm's departure with heartfelt sorrow.

"How come we all get together to say goodbye to people, but we never get together to say hello?" he asked. "Put that in your pipe and smoke it. Weedherm, he'd put anything in his pipe," Madero said, pronouncing the name with a thick Spanish accent.

Then Wheatgerm took the stage. He began his farewell performance with an auction, selling off items that had failed to move at his "totally spiritual" moving sale earlier in the week.

There was a motorcycle helmet from his less coordinated high school days. "I used to run into things a lot," he confessed.

There was a pneumatic-tube container he'd taken from his bank. "I know I got no more use for it now, and I know I can't go back to my bank," he said snorting a quick laugh.

And there was a package deal that included "The Cultivator's Guide to Marijuana," which Wheatgerm said he'd memorized and had no more use for, and a map of Lane County. "Please ignore the spots marked with an X, at least until next week. Okay?"

With business out of the way, Wheatgerm checked the list taped to the side of his guitar and launched into his repertoire of songs. Many of them were quasi-original numbers dealing with aspects of his Eugene life.



Photo by Michael Clapp

Wheatgerm entertained the crowd with songs and stories at his farewell concert in Amazon park.

He sang a Saturday Market ballad, set to the Beatles tune "Yesterday," which lamented his bygone days of selling hash pipes. That was followed by an Oregon Country Fair song, which suggested one should take LSD and forget about time.

To close the show, Wheatgerm was joined on stage by several friends for a rousing rendition of "The Foodstamp Boogie."

After the performance, Campbell, who came to Eugene 11 years ago to study psychology at the University and to escape the Los Angeles area, talked about Wheatgerm with a bit of distance.

"He's about 30 to 40 percent from my past, but I take him to the extremes," he said. "I don't do drugs anymore, but I used to (do drugs), and sell drugs, and have hair like that."

Campbell said he'll take Wheatgerm along with him to Los Angeles, where he'll be studying acting at the California Institute for the Arts. "I've used him there before doing stand-up routines."

He said he and Wheatgerm learned a lot about politics and politicians in their campaign this spring, but Wheatgerm holds no grudge. "Wheatgerm is nothing but love," Campbell said.

# ASUO to fund phone

By Julie Shippen  
Of the Emerald

The summer subcommittee of the Incidental Fee Committee voted 3-0 Monday to allocate a total of \$460 toward continuing service of the Off-Campus Housing's outside phone line.

According to Michael Morrow, director of Off-Campus Housing, the organization's budget made provisions for only one phone for the coming year. Until the beginning of this month, the service had three lines, one of which was cut off due to the likely adoption of measured service rates on state agency phone systems.

The main reason for continuing to fund the outside line is that it has proven its worth as a cost-free aid to students looking for housing. IFC members agreed. However, its services have been abused by students who use the phone to make personal calls, they added.

"I see people using this phone around nine or ten at night, and they're not making calls associated with Off-Campus Housing. They're using the phone to call their boyfriend or girlfriend because they don't have to pay 25 cents," said Lori Lieberman, an IFC member.

ASUO Finance Coordinator John

Dreeszen said the ASUO believes the phone is still valuable to the University and is willing to help support it. However, Dreeszen stressed that the service should be credited to the ASUO in the future.

"You're making more of a policy statement than a financial statement when you're asking the ASUO to co-sponsor this," Dreeszen said. He and Kevin Lewis, ASUO budget assistant, expressed reluctance to offer ASUO assistance now without also making plans for future funding.

Lewis also was concerned about the possible confusion that would be caused by having two parties share the line's billing.

The ASUO never has funded another student group's phone system, and the current request is a unique one, Lewis said.

Though plans have been made to make further investigations on other possible sources to help fund the line, the IFC took the ASUO up on its offer and decided to draw \$230 of the \$460 from ASUO unallocated reserves as the ASUO's contribution. The other \$230 also will be taken from the same account in the name of Off-Campus Housing.

# LTD shuttle to run in fall

The Lane Transit District will inaugurate a permanent shuttle bus this fall to connect the University with the downtown mall and the Fifth Street Public Market, a spokesperson for LTD said Friday.

"The beauty of the downtown shuttle is not only the speed but the price," said Ed Bergeron, marketing administrator for LTD.

The shuttle, which begins service Sept. 23, will cost 25 cents and run every half hour. Those who wish to transfer from the shuttle to other routes can pay the regular bus fare of 55 cents.

The shuttle was inspired by the success of the free Christmas shuttle that was subsidized by downtown merchants. After seeing research done by Steve Brye, then a student in the University's planning program, LTD started the holiday season route in 1981.

The Christmas shuttle was discontinued in 1982 but returned in 1983 because of popular demand, Bergeron said. The option for merchants to subsidize the permanent shuttle during the holiday season still is open, he said.

The shuttle will be a regular LTD bus that will be distinctively painted for easy

identification. Eventually, LTD hopes to get some type of "variety" bus, such as a bus modified to look like a street car.

LTD plans to keep the shuttle in operation year-round. Although student patronage would drop off during the summer, the shuttle would still be used by tourists and those attending summer conferences on campus, he said.

"The downtown shuttle would be really attractive to tourists who want to see the University but don't know where to park," Bergeron said.

The Eugene Downtown Commission has proposed a three way shuttle connecting the Valley River Center to downtown and the University. But LTD rejected that proposal because there already is sufficient bus service to the shopping center and the distance is too great to make a shuttle practical, Bergeron said.

LTD also will continue its shuttle to Autzen Stadium during University football games, even if the games are held at night, he said. The football shuttles run between the stadium and such locations as the Valley River Center, South Eugene High School and the Springfield Transit Station.

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