

Our town: alphabetically speaking

Leaves are falling, Shakespeare and Pascal beckon, and soon the slow pace of summer will be lost in the hustle of the collegiate September.

Of course no one here should complain — Eugene is a terrific place to spend the autumn months. It has, like other towns, its own signature, a certain unique ambiance not easily defined, but unmistakably present.

It is, after all, the community on the safe side of Springfield . . . where a candidate named Wheatgerm receives over 4,000 votes for mayor . . . where almost everyone runs without being chased.

We are fully aware of the risks involved here: creation and maintenance of stereotypes. Nevertheless, we at **The Friday Edition** have decided to provide you, newcomers and old-timers alike, with an elementary guide to the community and its offerings. Presenting (with tongues securely embedded in cheeks):

The Friday Edition's "Eugene ABC's"

A is for Allann Bros. Coffee, the local taster's choice for fresh-ground or fresh beans. Don't scoff at coffee; caffeine will become your best friend by mid-October.

B stands for Birkenstocks, those comfortable shoes everyone who doesn't have on NIKES is wearing. A friend once admitted that she thought they were "the ugliest shoes ever invented." She then proceeded to pur-

chase her third pair.

C is for cemetery . . . the one across from Mac Court. We especially enjoy the sign at the entrance that says something like, ". . . no removals without written permission . . ."

Dave Sweeney is the weatherman on KEZI-TV. He's become a sort of cult figure in the city. Don't bother asking, "Is this guy for real?" He is.

E is for the (Oregon Daily) Emerald, which is a pretty fair publication in its own write.

The Fifth Street Public Market is everybody's favorite place to sit and watch other people. There are some shops and restaurants there too, but gawkers give the place its atmosphere.

G is for the Grateful Dead, who play Eugene at least once a year and always sell out . . . it's a cultural event everyone should experience once before dying.

Humble bagels are divine. They come in several mouth-watering flavors like whole-wheat, onion and raisin-cinnamon. If the EMU food service stops selling them again, we're boycotting it.

I is for Italian ice cream (gelato), the specialty at Marco's on Hilyard Street. There are citizens in this town who would sacrifice sunshine for this delectable treat.

J is for jazz. Live jazz, like you hear at Jo Federigo's, the Oregon Electric Station and Dejola's.

KWAX and **K**LCC are the two National Public Radio stations in Eugene. The first plays primarily classical music

and the second mostly jazz. All things considered, each has its merits.

L stands for Lenny's Nosh Bar — a great eatery hidden just off 13th Street. It stays open practically forever.

M is for Mary Decker, who lives and runs in Eugene along with approximately 103,000 other people.

N is for NIKES. If you don't know what they are you'd better head back to your cave. They were created in Beaverton, Oregon.

"**O**n the Edge" is Eugene's own highly successful comedy group. Catch them at The Brass Rail or at other certified places around town.

The Paddock Tavern (affectionately known as "The Pad") is a favorite hangout of sports fans and others.

Q is for quad. They're usually cheap and unusually miserable.

Rhododendrons grow in Hendricks Park and are really great in the spr-

ing. Actually Hendricks Park is a prime place for a getaway any day.

S is for Skinner (or is that Spencer) Butte? The annual Butte to Butte Run is a big deal in this town. Don't fret if you confuse the names; everyone has done it at least once.

T is for truffles; those really chocolaty ones made by the Euphoria Chocolate Company.

U stands for undergraduates. There are about 12,000 of these on this campus.

Valley River Center is Eugene's answer to the predictable suburban mall. Avoid it at all costs.

WOW Hall is Eugene's other performing arts center. Several local musicians, as well as some national and regional acts, play there.

X should be for Xenon, but instead it's for Zenon, a downtown restaurant that's just classy enough. Try the chicken salad (sensational).

Y is for Nancy's yogurt, a dairy treat that has put Springfield, Oregon on the map; in fact, Nancy's products are popular throughout the Northwest.

ZooZoo's is a vegetarian restaurant downtown near the post office . . . a must-visit for anyone interested in maintaining her or his relevancy.

Kim Carlson

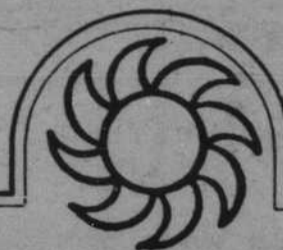
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