

ATTITUDES

Be an athletic supporter for art

To reiterate what's been said probably a 1000 times before: This town has a reputation of being a haven for runners. Everyone around here runs, has run, will run or, at the very least, knows someone who does run.

In turn, Willamette Valley road races come a dime a dozen. The *Emerald* sports department gets press releases for 10-K's at vineyards and 10-K's in Monmouth; children's races, and costume runs (similar to costume balls).

Obviously we cannot publicize all of them.

But last week as I was shuffling through the mounds of entertainment notices covering my corner of the newsroom one press release caught my eye. It wasn't for a play or a concert, but for a road race.

This Sunday the Eugene Hilton is presenting the third annual Performing Arts Run (formerly known as The Performing Arts Classic). Proceeds from the eight-kilometer road race will benefit local performing arts groups specifically for shows produced at the Hult Center. So while the money will ultimately go to the center, it first helps out the local groups.

The purpose of the race is similar to that of the springtime symphony benefit run, but more collaborative. According to Guy Di Torrice this is the first time local arts organizations have cooperatively promoted an event, especially a road race, to benefit the Hult Center. Nifty idea.

But the performing arts groups aren't the only ones who benefit. Race entrants are each entitled to one voucher for a ticket to either the Eugene Ballet, the Eugene Opera, the Eugene Symphony, the Oregon Repertory Theatre, or the Hult Center.

Each of those organizations has donated 250 tickets to any show this season (except the Hult Center which specifies the voucher is for a ticket to Black Light Theatre in October). The vouchers are available on a first come, first serve basis; if you don't get your first preference, however, you will probably get your second.

The top finishers in each of the age classes will receive plaques. In addition several other prizes will be awarded in a drawing after the race: two tickets from Horizon Airlines, tickets for two to the Britt festival, brunches from the Eugene Hilton and the Ashland Hills Inn and several other goodies will be given away to race entrants. However don't skip the ceremony; Di Torrice is adamant about runners being present to win.

There will indeed be post-race refreshments. "I've got Calistoga and cookies to give away like you can't believe," says Di Torrice.

All in all with the entrance fee set at \$7.50 for University students (not \$10 as was formerly established) and \$10 for others, the entire event is a pret-

ty good deal... even if T-shirts are extra (they will be available at the Hilton for \$5 and are emblazoned with the Eugene Celebration logo).

Eight kilometers is a nice distance for racing; it's not too far, but it's far enough. The course is AAU certified and sanctioned; it winds through the streets of Eugene. Another bonus: the race doesn't start until 10:15 a.m. so there's plenty of time to sleep-in beforehand.

If you enjoy running and can afford to support the arts, this is a great opportunity to do both.

Registration forms are

available at "NIKE Eugene" on the downtown mall, "The Eugene Hilton," "FEETS" in the Fifth Street Public Market, or at "Shoestrings" on Willamette Street. Registration packets may be picked up at the Eugene Hilton on Friday from noon to 6 p.m.; on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and on Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

By the way, in addition to the 8-K there is a special one-kilometer "fun run" which starts at 10 a.m. For more information on the Performing Arts Run call Di Torrice at 343-0081.

Kim Carlson

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