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The writing on the wall: Eugene's signboards

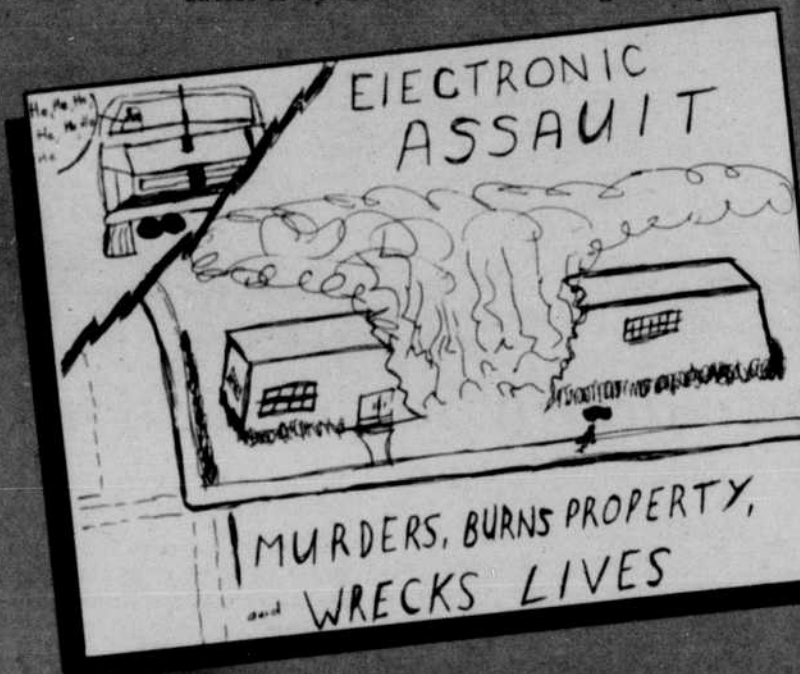
Community signboards can be found everywhere in Eugene. Located in laundromats, libraries, school buildings and on fences, storefronts and bus shelters, they serve as both impromptu forums and alternative advertising spaces.

But there is more to signboards than meets the eye. Tucked underneath and inconspicuously around the usual collection of music, film and meeting flyers are off-the-wall flyers and strange items left behind by people rarely seen in the act of putting them up.

Some are funny. In the EMU, a black-and-white flyer alerts the public to a perceived new threat — the "electronic assault." Below a drawing of what appears to be a mobile home being blown apart, the electronic assault is said to murder, burn property and wreck lives.

There's also the exploits of Mr. Buttfacet. On the signboard outside Guido's Restaurant a flyer presents Buttfacet's Facial Exercise No. 1.

Below drawings of Buttfacet's changing face is the advice to try the exercise "on self-righteous politicians."



overdressed punks, your parents, the media, cocaine fiends and even those cute-pie pushovers with the original lines."

Many of the flyers stapled and taped to the signboards publicize "can't lose" offers like those seen on late-night wrestling. Most run true to form, but there are some that stand out by themselves even on a crowded board.

In the EMU basement, a flyer tells where official 22 cent U.S. postage stamps can be bought for 2 cents less; on the board outside the Franklin Boulevard Hiron's Store, a weight-loss flyer explains that 29 pounds can be lost in 30 days because "these products are proven winners millions of times every day;" and on the old 13th Avenue Courtyard signboard, an order form offers Afghan Freedom Fighter sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, bumper stickers and jewelry.

But perhaps the most telling offer can be found three blocks from Safeway on a 17th Avenue signboard. There, an enterprising person has posted a flyer that says, "For Sale — Apr. 9 — Large Shopping Carts."

Strange items also pop up on signboards around town. At the Fifth Street Public Market, the signboard in the basement sports a paper vase with the words "Love to the 9th Amendment" written on it, filled with daisies, miniature carnations and California poppies.

And at Mr. Cleanjeans Laundry, 240 E. 17th Ave., the Theodore Roosevelt Middle School student body card of little Robin Tunncliffe, grade six, has been stapled to the wood wall as well as an essay torn from the pages of Time magazine, titled, "The Using of Baby Fat."

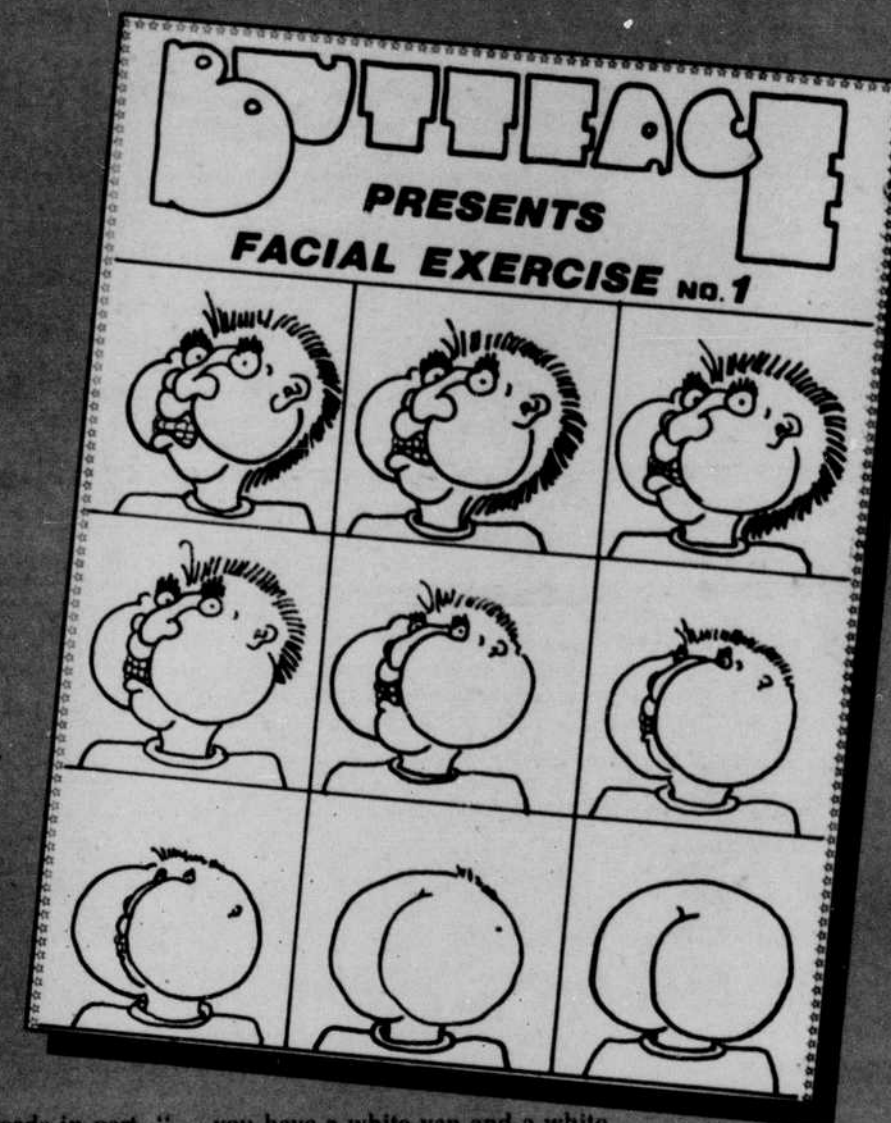
Some signboards carry flyers pertaining only to animals. At the Carnation Country Store across from the Fifth Street Public Market, amidst the signs requesting diamond doves, button quail and frozen, unsalted goat-skins, is a brochure from the Lazy H Kennel of Eugene. The brochure explains, among other things, that the Shar-Pei, a Chinese dog bred thousands of years ago as a watchdog and rodent catcher, will not attack your neighbors or children but "will probably enjoy chomping on your arm as a light bite to say 'I love you.'"

Not all the odd flyers are openly amusing, however. On the signboard located near the 13th Avenue entrance to the EMU, a woman who lost an expensive coat in a stranger's automobile left a sign that

reads in part, "... you have a white van and a white dog and gave four of us a ride from Mapleton."

Eugene signboards also possess outdated and forgotten items. At the top of a Saturday Market signboard, a blue-and-white sticker with an American flag encourages the public to elect Republican Ben Kilpatrick of Grants Pass as Oregon's next governor. But unfortunately for Kilpatrick and his supporters, he received less than 5 percent of the vote in the recent primary election, and his sticker, like other signboard items around Eugene, is rapidly fading from sight.

Story by Stephen Maher



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Outdoor Program offers rafting clinic

The University Outdoor Program is sponsoring a two-part rafting initiation clinic for those who wish to plan a rafting trip on one of Oregon's scenic rivers.

The Outdoor Program's rafting equipment can be used to plan a whitewater adventure in conjunction with the program.

said Assistant Coordinator Keith Nelson.

The purpose of the clinic is not to teach people rafting skills, Nelson said, but to teach people how to initiate a rafting trip.

posts a sheet stating information such as date, time and place of the trip. Other in-

terested rafters sign up, and the trip is planned collectively by the participants, Nelson said.

This month's rafting initiation clinic will be held July 14 and 16 at 7 p.m. in the Outdoor Program room in the basement of the EMU. Call 686-4365 for more information.

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