

SKINS

Continued from Page 1

supremacist organizations.

"Nazi skins are the minority of the skins, but we (neutral skins) don't go out and beat people up, so we don't get a lot of press," said one skin, who asked to be identified as Reginold.

The majority of skinheads in Eugene are "Oi!" skinheads, named after a popular form of skinhead music.

These skins say they are careful to steer clear of racism. Some say they even feel a sense of solidarity with other oppressed peoples.

"I'm not prejudiced against minorities because I know what it's like to walk down the street and get beat up because of what you look like," said a skinhead named Dan.

They say they devote their limited political concern to the needs of the working class.

"We wear work boots because we're working people," one skin said.

Many "Oi!"s have joined an organization named the Eugene Area Numb Skulls. A member and brother of one of the group's founders said Numb Skulls is "a family of all types of people who

protect each other and watch each others' back."

About 50 people belong to the group — some skinheads, some punk and some in-between.

Eugene police officer Kenneth Saxon III described skins as "mostly at risk kids" who come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

"They come from dysfunctional families and find a sort of family in their fellow skins," Saxon said.

On the other side of the spectrum are Nazi or white supremacist skinheads. Some contend that there are no Nazis in Eugene, while others claim there may be as many as five.

Greg Rikhoff, human rights analyst for the city of Eugene, estimates that as many as a dozen Nazi skins may be in Eugene, but he said they have a fairly nomadic existence.

Nazi skins in Eugene are forced to keep a low profile because "if they show they're Nazis, they're going to get bashed," said a skin identifying himself as Wendell.

Many skins maintain it is impossible for Nazi skins to attract any real support in a progressive town like Eugene.

Wendell said attitude, not appearance, conveys racism.

"You can be a racist and be wearing a

cowboy hat," Wendell said. "In fact, it's more likely."

If Eugene doesn't have any real Nazi skinheads, it's not for lack of trying. Dave Mazzella, a recruiter for Tom Metzger's white supremacist organization, reportedly came to Eugene last summer to create a chapter of Nazi skins.

Mazzella is credited with founding the racist Southern Oregon Skins, a group of about 15 Nazi skins based in the Medford-Ashland area.

Reginold, who said he spent some time with Mazzella while he was in Eugene, said the extent of Mazzella's recruiting success was meeting with a few 13- to 14-year-olds.

"Eugene is a very liberal town so it was real hard for (Mazzella) to recruit," Reginold said.

Reginold said he "partied" with Mazzella because they had similar musical tastes, but he did not agree with his racist beliefs.

He said he was also reluctant to join because acceptance into Mazzella's organization entails a "jump-in," in which a new pledge is surrounded and then beaten by a circle of members. The jump-in lasts from 30 seconds to five minutes.

Though most skinheads disagree with the Nazis, some say they understand the feelings of the Nazi skins.

Charlie said he understands those feelings of frustration.

"Most of them are from the suburbs and have suburban values," Charlie said. "They graduate from high school and can't get a job any better than working at McDonald's, so they blame it on the blacks."

Though neutral skins disagree with the Nazis' blatant racism, they have a "live and let live" philosophy. As Charlie put it, "Nazis are people too."

However, because most media coverage focuses on Nazi skins, other skinheads suffer from their negative image. These stereotypes have created situations where minorities fear all skins, not just Nazis.

However, "people of color don't take the time to ask skins if they're racist or anti-racists," Rikhoff said. The result is that members of the minority community end up fearing the more benign form of skinhead, he said.

Marvin Re-voal, president of the Eugene/Springfield chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he doesn't see much difference between skinheads.

"Nazi skins espouse racial supremacy, and neutral skins espouse the same kind of hate and destruction," Re-voal said.

Religion lectures to be held today

Student Health Insurance Committee meets today at 4 p.m. in EMU Century Room A.

Et als

EMU Board of Directors meets tonight at 5 in the EMU Board Room.

"Turning America Around at Home and Abroad" is the title of a lecture to be given by Dr. John Stoessinger, professor of international affairs for Trinity University. The presentation will be held in Room 100 Willamette tonight at 7:30.

"A Christian Perspective on Jews and Christians in Early Christian Scriptures" is the title of a lecture to be given by John Koenig from the General Theological Seminary tonight at 8 in the EMU Gumwood Room.

"Jewish Attitudes Toward Early Christian Scriptures" is the title of a lecture to be given by Michael J. Cook of Hebrew Union College, today at 4 in the EMU Gumwood Room.

ALD/PES National Honor Society initiation ceremony will be held tonight at 7 in the EMU Fir Room.

Love Affair, or the Tragedy of the Switchboard Operator is the title of a Yugoslavian film about sex and politics in contemporary Yugoslavia. It will be shown tonight at 6:30 in Room 115 Pacific (the Yamada Language Center) and is part of the Soviet and East European Film Series.

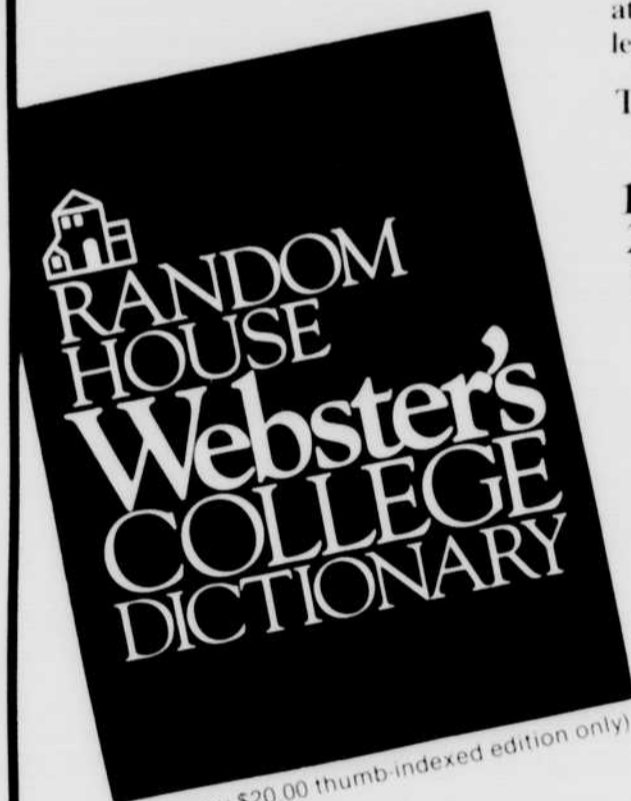
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THE TEN-STEP CRITERIA OF A GOOD DICTIONARY:

(Or, "How Do I Know This Is The One I Need?")

1. Is its most recent copyright within the new decade?
2. Does it contain the name of the current President and Vice President and the most recent Supreme Court Justices? How about terms from the news such as: perestroika, CNN, global warming, intifada, MTV, Soweto and Chernobyl?
3. Does it contain words in your current vocabulary and words that you are likely to use at home, office or school? Words such as: genetic fingerprinting, glass ceiling, mommy track, paper trail, stressed out, win-win, lemon law, Filofax, attention deficit disorder, codependent, corporate raider?
4. Check out the definitions for some new words such as: designated driver, dis, garbology, metalhead, phone phreak, virtual reality. Do they make sense? Do you like the style in which they are presented?
5. OK, go ahead, look up those seven words that drive censors crazy. A good dictionary will have them all and many others, and let the reader know by its usage labels how they are viewed by the majority.
6. Is there a guide to using the dictionary? Do you understand it? Is the information clear and reader-friendly?
7. Pretend you are just learning English. Look up: aromatherapy, boy toy, Claymation, computer virus, cyberpunk, fanny pack, NIMBY, spin control, telephone tag, voguing. Are their meanings clear and understandable?
8. Does the language used in the dictionary reflect cultural changes? Try looking up professional titles such as: firefighter, flight attendant, anchor, and what the dictionary says about endings such as "-ess", "-ette" and "-trix".
9. Does the dictionary reflect the way word uses changes and expands over time? Does it show the new meanings for words such as: cow (as in "to have a"), flagpole (as in "to run it up"), flow (as in "to go with"), history (as in "you are"), read (as in "lips"), veg (as in "out"), blackout (as in travel dates), portability (as in pension rights)?
10. Do you know the publisher's name?



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