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Pulse *Excite*

On Tuesday
Painting and writing a perfect world

WORLD

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'Bumfights' film drops down into cultural toilet

Joseph Bechard
Edge Culture Columnist

Sometimes life is actually fair. Sometimes karma comes back and bites the bad guys in the ass, and I must admit, it's nice to see genuine jackasses get their just desserts. And this could have been my chance.

But karma chickened out again Jan. 15, when San Diego Superior Court Judge Larrie Brainard dropped felony charges of battery and soliciting brought against the filmmakers responsible for "Bumfights: Cause for Concern," the controversial video featuring homeless people committing acts of violence and performing dangerous and humiliating "stunts."

One of the four video-makers will stand trial for conspiracy to stage an illegal fight, and the other three will be tried on charges of conspiracy to commit battery. The judge cited insufficient evidence as his reasoning for dismissing the felony charges.

If the accusers don't appeal the case and reverse the decision, this will be all the reason I need to finally give up. Jackass culture is taking over, and the exploitation of the down-and-out is a legally condoned pastime.

The filmmakers claimed that the First Amendment protects their work in the same way that it protects other companies hiring stuntmen. Despite the judge's inability to convict the film's creators of higher crimes, the movie teems with suspicious activities that should disgust any self-respecting individual.

In one segment, a man who calls himself "Steve Urban: Bum Hunter" spoofs The Crocodile Hunter as he duct tapes the hands, legs and mouths of homeless people, measures and tags them and releases them back into their "natural habitat."

Rufus "The Stunt Bum" Hannah is the movie's most prominent personality. Viewers see him fighting with other homeless men, riding in a shopping cart down a flight of stairs, putting his head through a sign at a fast-food drive-through and running into walls. His fingers are tattooed with the letters "B-U-M-F-I-G-H-T," and the Web site sells sweaters with his likeness on them for \$34.95. An area nurse even knew him by name.

Hannah and one other man, Donald Brennan, are suing the producers. Filmmakers taped Brennan having sex with a drug-

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Joseph Bechard
Cultural
Obstetrician

After midnight



Adam Amato Emerald

Eugene offers plenty of late-night activities located near the University for students seeking evening extracurriculars.

Time in Twilight

From blacklight bowling to chowing down at late-night restaurants, students can find many activities after hours

Ryan Bornheimer
and Helen Schumacher
Pulse Writers

Eugene may not be the city that never sleeps. But bar hoppers and dancing machines bored with the same old scene can look beneath the surface to see a quirky world that only comes out after midnight. From playgrounds to porn stores, there are plenty of alternatives to that party on Alder Street.

Students searching for an "illuminating" nighttime activity can check out Strike City Lanes at 1170 Highway 99 N. On Fridays and Saturdays, the

bowling alley on Franklin Boulevard stays open until 2:00 a.m. Wander in after midnight when all the white lights are shut off. Black lights bounce off everything from the balls to the pins to tabletops — creating a cosmic landscape and a truly unique bowling experience.

Lanes Manager Kathi Sutherland said this is a perfect time for college students to find an open lane.

"Around midnight, the younger crowd and teenagers head home, so there's always plenty of availability," Sutherland said.

Sporting a full lounge, Strike City is an appropriate place for the over-21 crowd to pick up a pitcher of beer, throw on a pair of glow-in-the-dark shoes and bowl the night away.

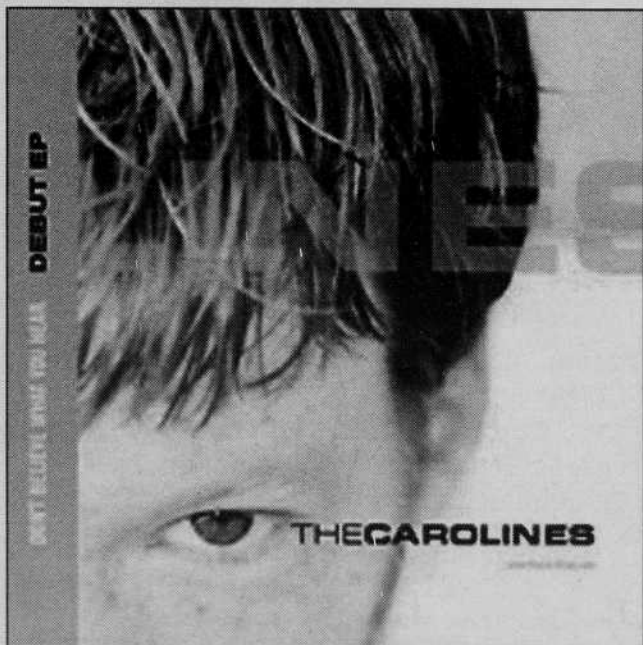
After working up an appetite, students can cruise by a staple of the late-

night restaurant scene, Shari's — try the one at 2950 W. 11th. With greasy hash browns and chocolate milkshakes, the 24-hour diner is perfect for those looking to prevent tomorrow's hangover. Other options include Lyon's and International House of Pancakes. A slightly healthier alternative, The Pita Pit, located at 1087 Willamette Street, offers delivery and is located closer to campus.

Sex — a timeless diversion — is always popular after midnight. A visit to one of Eugene's adult shops can set the mood for fun...or at least supply some laughs. Exclusively Adult owner Steve Mattick said the late night crowd often stops by his store to break the boredom of an uneventful evening. These folks turn the visit into an experience that is anything but mundane.

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The Carolines illustrate fun, creative 'vintage rock' music



Courtesy
Portland-based band The Carolines released their first album, "Don't Believe What You Hear" in 2001.

With a show this Friday at Eugene's WOW Hall, the Portland-based band hopes to build a local fan base

Jacquelyn Lewis
Pulse Editor

The Carolines don't have a "special message" or a political agenda, and the band will be the first to admit it.

"We're not trying to prove anything," rhythm guitarist player and songwriter Nate Purscelley said. "We just literally want to make fun music that we like to listen to."

Singer and keyboardist Aaron Trueb agreed.

"People can go to a show and have fun," he said. "The music isn't depressing. Our purpose is just to be creative and make good music."

The five-member Portland-based group will play WOW Hall with the Gin Blossoms and Eugene's own Glass Hearts on Friday. The other band members are lead guitarist Nathan Trueb, bassist Matt Lenhart, and drummer Jared Abraham.

Trueb and Purscelley said they have never met the Gin Blossoms, but they are both excited about the chance to perform with the band, whose album, "New Miserable Experience" featured such hits as 1992's "Hey Jealousy" and "Allison Road."

"I've always actually been a fan of theirs," Purscelley said. "This is a huge deal — to play with a band who's had the history that they've had... It's one thing to play with a really popular band; it's another to play with one you really like."

The Carolines have been playing music together for three years, save Lenhart, who officially joined the band just a week ago.

"Basically, we are all friends," 26-year-old Purscelley said. "We are all into music, and we just started hooking up and writing songs together."

The Carolines released their first album, "Don't Believe What You Hear" in 2001, and Purscelley described the sound as "vintage rock." The band is now in the pre-production phase of their second album, which they plan to release

"The music isn't depressing. Our purpose is just to be creative and make good music."

Aaron Trueb
Singer and keyboardist

early this summer.

"I think the sound will be similar," 23-year-old Trueb said. "We definitely aren't changing our sound, but I hope that our songwriting has developed a bit. I'm more excited about the songs we're writing now."

In the meantime, The Carolines said they are also shopping around for a supportive independent label and striving to build a broad fan base close to home.

"I think that our big thing is to work it slow, keep it relatively local — develop fewer markets really well."

Trueb added that the band will play a mixture of old and new material at

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