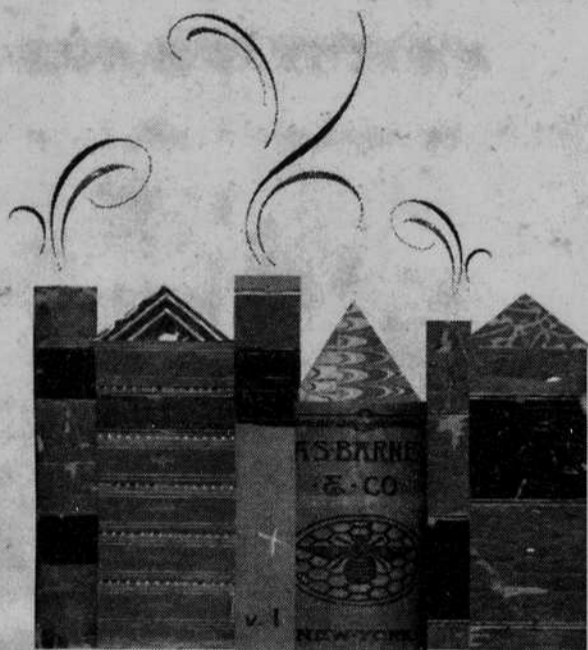


McSweeney's editor and literary historian, **Paul Collins** joins us for a book signing and reading from his newest book

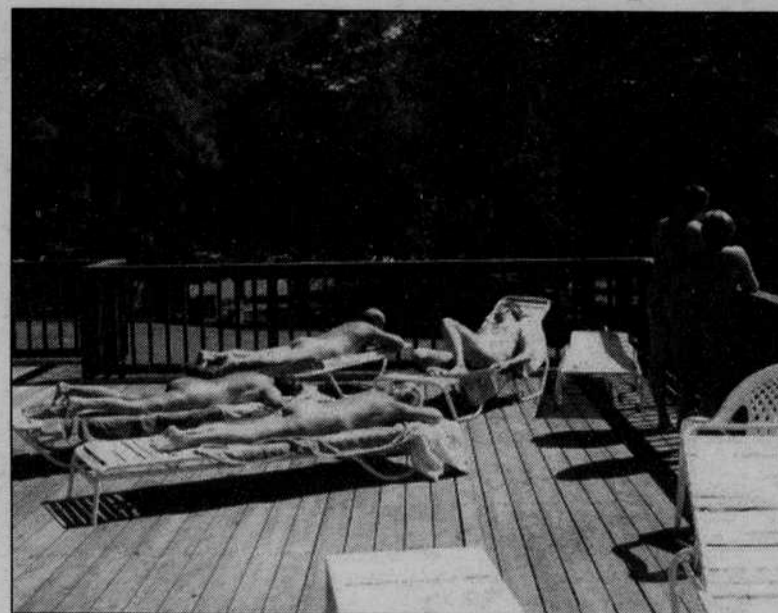
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Courtesy

The Willamettans, a 40-acre nudist co-op founded in 1953, is located in Marcola.

Nudists

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facilities. Non-landed club members are nudists who meet in private residences and often organize trips to landed clubs.

Squaw Mountain is the oldest nudist camp west of the Mississippi — the 19-acre retreat, located 40 miles southeast of Portland in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, was established in 1933. Nudity might still elicit giggles from clothing-bound elitists, but after a short glance of the facilities and activities offered by Squaw Mountain, one can't escape the impression that nudist clubs are nothing more than summer camps for people without clothes.

The ranch has hiking trails, a private lake, paddle boats, a club house, volleyball courts and a miniature golf course — pretty innocuous stuff. And that suits Moriarty just fine. He said committed nudists are not interested in any "inappropriate" behavior.

"It's not a sexual thing in any way, shape or form," he said. "I just prefer to be nude. I guess I was always a closet nudist. I was always interested in this lifestyle but my two wives weren't interested. So as soon as I got divorced, I joined."

Moriarty, who was also the president of Squaw Mountain for a short period, is retired and said nudism primarily attracts older people. He said he has seen a rise in members as young their early 30s and added they always welcome younger nudists.

"We'd love to have more college-age members because they represent our future, just like any other organization," Moriarty said.

The closest locale for practicing nudists in Eugene is available at The Willamettans, a 40-acre club in Marcola. The Willamettans — members call themselves the Willies — is a co-op founded in 1953. Willamettans

President Sharon Bower said her club is living proof that the popularity of nudism is on the rise and the stigmas of nudism are falling.

"When I joined 32 years ago, we had 73 members. We now have nearly 500," Bower said. "We don't feel as encumbered as in the past. Back when I joined, we didn't even use last names because people could lose their jobs. That can't happen anymore, and people feel more free."

In the club's 50-year history, members have worked almost exclusively in the construction of the facilities, which include everything from tennis courts to a restaurant and tavern. Such amenities have helped to create a safe, tight-knit community, which Bower said is one of the location's main attractions.

"We don't have to worry about a lot of the things people worry about," Bower said. "I don't even lock my door."

Bower added that she hasn't seen a huge problem with people joining the Willamettans for the wrong reasons. Since joining, she said there have been perhaps 10 incidents in which people had to be escorted from the property due to questionable conduct.

One final destination worth mentioning is Restful Havens Health Club in North Plain. This nudist resort is the largest landed club in Oregon — a whopping 104 acres of clothing-optional fun.

Bower offered an interesting tidbit that may sway the remaining skeptics of nudism. She said that Benjamin Franklin was known for taking "air baths" — he'd essentially sit outside in the buff. So there you have it. If it's good enough for our forefathers, it couldn't be bad — even if the image of a naked Benjamin Franklin doesn't exactly make your day.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com.



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Ask Nat

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since terrorism has been in the news, I've been worrying that it might be me on the next plane that's attacked. Any perspectives on my fear or some tips to ease my nerves would be helpful.

— **Afraid to Fly**

Dear Afraid: Consider these statistics: Based on the number of car crashes and plane crashes that have occurred in the past, traveling by plane is 55 times safer than traveling by car, and, on average, you would have to board a plane every day for the next 29,000 years before being involved in a crash.

The truth is, you have a higher chance of being struck by lightning than from dying in an airplane disaster. Once you've convinced

yourself of this, ease your nerves on board with deep breathing exercises, soothing music and an engrossing book.

To be on the safe side, I highly suggest keeping your American citizenship unadvertised while traveling abroad. Avoid hanging out in rowdy groups with other Americans, going to American hangouts such as McDonald's and talking loudly in English. If you're really hoping to stay out of harm's way, sew Canadian flag badges on handbags, backpacks and jackets. Any foreigner will welcome you with open arms once they see you aren't the typical American tourist.

Contact the columnist at natashachilingerian@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. Send questions to advice@dailyemerald.com.