

Wednesday, February 17, 1999

Things to do when there's nothing to do

MANDI LINSTROM
Staff Writer

You know the scene: It's the weekend and the weather is prime for Oregon.

It just happens to be your day off, and your friends are all free for some bonding time. You are left thinking aloud, "What should we do?"

There's got to be more places to go than the mall or to the movies. Those places just don't cut it anymore."

Fret no more. The Clackamas Print is coming to your aid with a few good ideas on things to do around the Portland area besides mall-hopping or plopping down \$7.50+ for a movie. Read on:

Cruise the Hawthorne District: If hob-nobbing with the rich and sometimes snobby isn't your style, then Hawthorne is the place for you. With a much more laid-back atmosphere, this street is always buzzing with activity. Stores



like New York Buffalo Exchange, where you can trade in your old clothes for new or barely-used name brand clothes, make this an area one not to be overlooked. Plus, there are plenty of coffee joints and a Ben and Jerry's Ice cream Parlor to boot. (Yummy!)

Specialty stores and cafés mark the street also, so be prepared to spend a lot of your time ducking in and out of them in order to get a real feel for what the Hawthorne District is all about.

Stroll down Northwest 23rd Street: This is the best shopping street in the whole Portland area if you are willing to spend a little bit of extra cash. You'll notice right away that this is the street for those who aren't afraid to buy and have nice things. Almost every other car is a BMW or a Mercedes—definitely a more classy area of downtown Portland.

Located off of Burnside, 23rd hosts an array of unique shopping spots like Urban Outfitters, Retro Viva, and stores that carry the most up-to-fashion gear. There's also a ton of interesting specialty shops that carry everything from specialty cigars to accessories for adorning any outfit on a guy or girl.

If you get hungry after spending all that money, you're in luck. Not only is there prime shopping on Northwest 23rd, there is also some of the best and most diverse little eateries on the same

strip. From Piccato's Pizzeria to New York Bagels, you can satisfy just about any taste bud for a reasonable price—and trust me, it is well-worth the money. I have found some of my favorite restaurants on this street, so don't forget to check them out.

Check out OMSI's Laser Light Show: What better place to be surrounded by all your buddies and the music of your favorite bands than at a laser light show?

Surrounded by nothing but darkness, blaring music by featured artists and brilliant, flashing lights, the last thing you'll be able to do is fall asleep. Tickets are relatively cheap at \$6.50 for an hour of viewing—more than you ever thought was possible with laser projections.

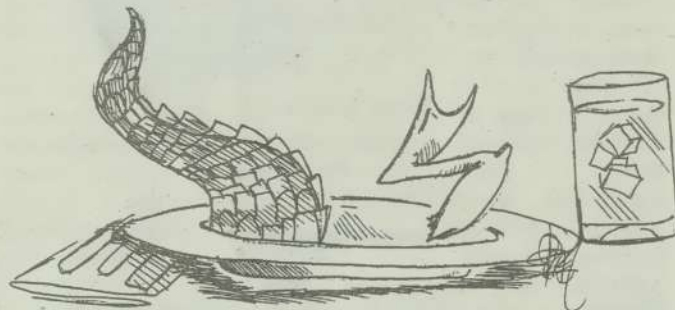
Make sure to bring a group of pals to make the experience even more surreal.



Relax at the Comedy Sports Club: Looking for a good laugh? Then the Comedy Sports Club is where you want

to be. This downtown Portland club features different comedians each weekend and specializes on improv comedy, which uses one main ingredient: the audience.

Relying heavily on audience participation, this swingin' weekend spot is sure to make you break out in a fit of giggles—especially if it's your best friend that the rest of the audience is laughing at. Check out the weekly A & E section of *The Oregonian* for exact location details.



Head to the Montage:

This hip, happening restaurant off of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard under the Morrison Bridge does more than cater to your taste buds.

With an atmosphere composed mostly of young Portland urbanites, the Montage is the restaurant to hang out at, especially on Friday and Saturday nights.

It's open into the wee hours of the early morning on the weekend, so the employees won't usher you out when you show up at a quarter to one.

tors an insight into what's going on in the kitchen).

With dozens of candles on each table providing the only light during evening hours, it's also the perfect place to take that cute prospect for a significant other.

Well, folks, these are just a few suggestions to help occupy your spare time and get rid of a bad case of the weekend blahs.

Granted, these aren't the only hot spots of Portland, but now at least you can have an answer the next time your friends or boyfriend/girlfriend calls up and whines, "What are we gonna do?"

Bill Murray makes a splash in *Rushmore*

SHELBI WESTCOTT
Staff Writer

Every high school has a nerd. For Rushmore academy, a prestigious school for the upper class, it's Max Fischer. He's captain of the fencing team, founder of the dodgeball club, member of the calligraphy, stamp and coin clubs, involved in speech and debate, and president of the Rushmore beekeepers, just to name a few.

The 15-year-old sophomore, played by newcomer Jason Schwartzmann, is the epitome of nerdiness. He has an awkward walk, a mouth of metal and huge wire frame glasses. To top it all off, he has an obsession with older women.

Young Max falls in love with Miss Cross, a first grade teacher. With the help of his friend and mentor (Bill Murray) he tries to build an aquarium on the school's baseball diamond in order to impress her. However, his charade fails and Max is expelled from Rushmore. After his expulsion he dedicates his life toward winning Miss Cross' heart.

Bill Murray shines as Mr. Bloom, a middle-aged industrial tycoon, who always has a cigarette secured between his lips (even when taking a swim in his pool). Involved in an unhappy marriage, with two dumb-jock-type twin sons, Bloom reaches out to Max. He even goes so far as to donate 8 million dollars toward Max's aquarium project. Sound a little odd? Well, 'odd' is the only word that defines 'Rushmore'.

The whole movie is riddled with off beat humor and originality. However, the unrealistic nature of the plot was unconvincing. And Jason Schwartzmann's performance would have been weak without the support of Murray. Seymour Cassel does an excellent job portraying Max's father. His performance elicited an auditorium full of 'awws' and groans of sympathy.

'Rushmore' is funny. However, the humor doesn't save the film. What saves this film is Murray. He carries this film and allows everyone else to tag along. So, take a risk and check out what 'Rushmore' has to offer. It's worth the trip once—just not more than that.

