

**Portland cedes distinction to Eugene**

Portland City Council voted yesterday in a unanimous decision to cede the distinction of "America's Crunchiest City" to Eugene. The title, which serves as a gauge of a city's hippy-ness, will be passed on to Eugene voters in a November ballot referendum.

"Eugene has quietly snuck up behind Portland in terms of crunchiness over the past few years," said Nick Fish, city commissioner of Portland Parks and Recreation as he took a photo-op with a chicken in a North Portland urban garden. "We could not keep up with the hippy-ness of Eugene. The residents of the city shower an average of five times fewer per week than Portland residents, they grow 10 times more food per capita than Portland's urban gardeners, and their grass is definitely greener."

The true clinch-point for the transfer of distinction, however, was when officials found out that individuals in Eugene were composting their own pet droppings in order to create electricity.

"I don't know of many Portlanders who compost their pet's own waste. I mean, we have a long way to go before we catch up to San Francisco. Looks like Eugene is on to something," said one composting advocate.

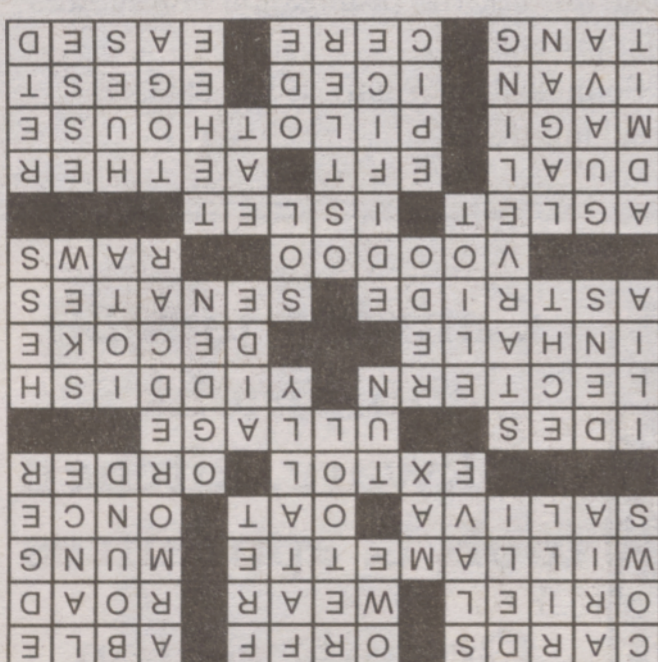
"Since learning about the new program, we are in the early stages of planning for the Portland Parks Bureau to accommodate pet waste," says a parks official. "Once the economy turns around, of course, and we are able to open up bathrooms for humans."

"We haven't given up this fight," said Fish. "I congratulate the people of Eugene for stripping us of this title, but warn them that Portland will be back to out-crunch their smelly city to the south. Think about all the granola and patchouli we have at our disposal."

*We tip our mugs to Coffee Bean International for donating coffee to Street Roots and keeping our vendors warm in the morning! Thank you!*

**coffee bean**  
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Answers to puzzles on page 15



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**Office Cat Rooty finds a home**

BY VENDOR PROFILE GUY  
STREET TOOTS NEWS SERVICE

Office Cat Rooty never anticipated becoming homeless. Like many other middle class Americans, he was living stringently but comfortably with a family of four in Northeast Portland.

Resources were tight, but there was always enough to go around. Rooty's matriarch used culinary ingenuity to make sure everyone was fed. Steaks became hamburgers and then meatloaf. Rooty had to forego his favorite cans of Fancy Feast for Friskies. When money

became scarce, litter for Rooty's box was the first to go. They were hard times, but Rooty thought his family still loved him.

Then, tragedy struck. The economy took a nosedive and the patriarch of Rooty's family lost his job as a baggage handler at Portland International Airport. As the family scrambled to pay its bills, they looked at all options they could cut to pay their mortgage and avoid foreclosure. This was the most inopportune time for Rooty to get a bladder infection of his life.

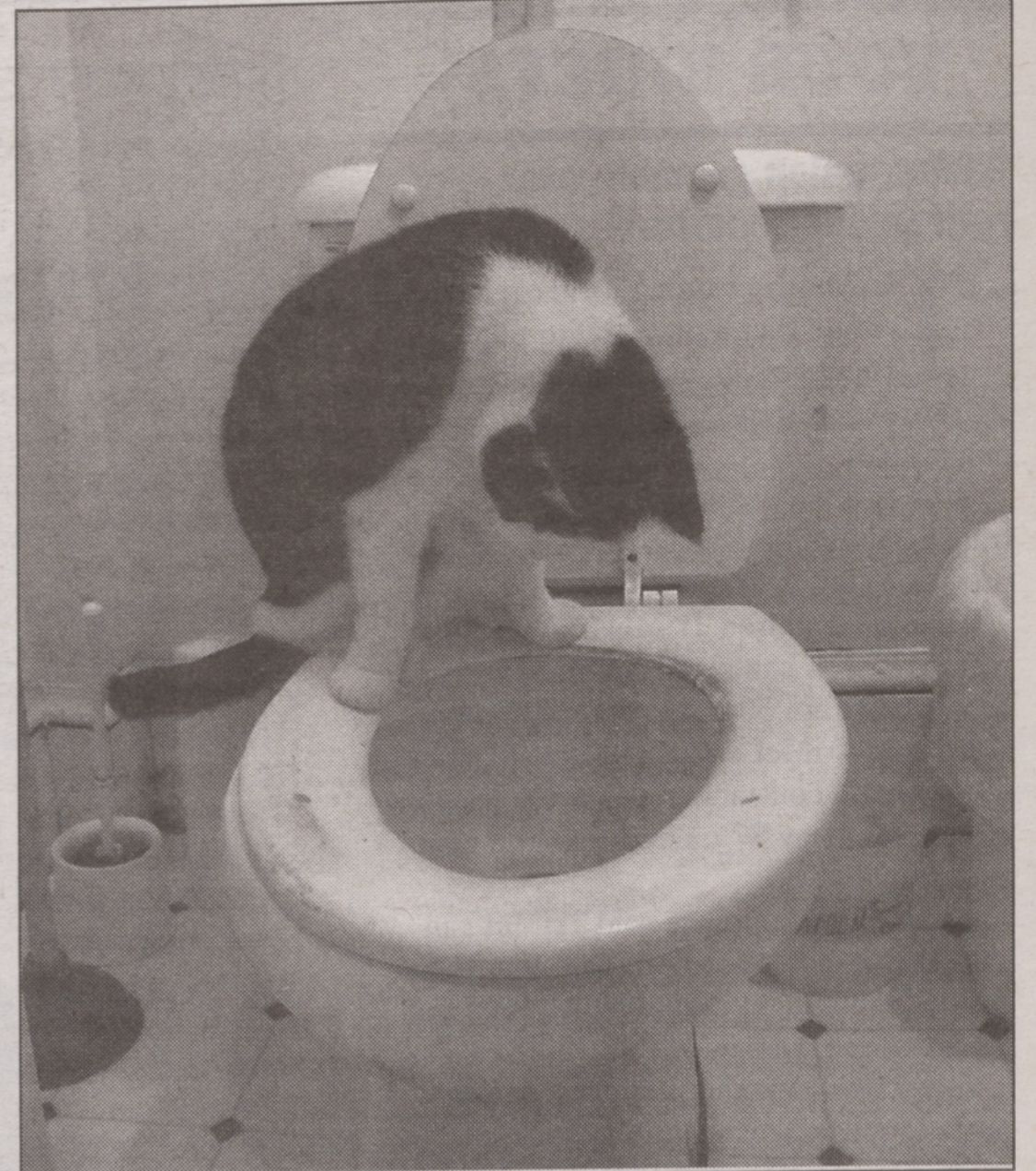
**"I like it here most of the time. I've kind of got it made."**

— OFFICE CAT ROOTY

bladder infection because they were too cheap to change my litter, and I couldn't get it taken care of because they didn't have the money to take me to the vet. I was damned either way."

Rooty's patriarch dropped him off on a cold spring evening at an undisclosed location in Northeast Portland. For a day, the cat wandered the streets hungry with an incredibly uncomfortable bladder until he reached the house of a man he had heard rumors of; a man with a heart so large that he would never turn anyone who needed help away.

"I had heard of this Foghorn Leghorn dude before,"



Days before the new Street Roots restroom was built office cat Rooty ponders his role in the organization.

hissed Rooty. "Other cats told me he didn't exist, that he was a big, enigmatic legend. They said that no man could ever get away with wearing that many scarves with baseball socks. But I knew I had to find him. I knew he was the only person who could ever properly take care of me."

When Rooty showed up on Leghorn's front porch, the man was not amused.

"Damnit," he grumbled as he looked up briefly from his iPhone, exhaling a Camel Light with reckless abandon. Leghorn took a photo of Rooty and instantly shared it on his Facebook and Twitter pages.

"Anyone lose a cat?" the post said. "I don't want to keep this cat," Leghorn muttered, lighting another Camel with a purloined lighter.

Two days later, with animal rights activists breathing down his neck in the form of social media comments, Leghorn caved and took the cat to the vet. After a strong dose of antibiotics, Office Cat Rooty made his official home in the Street Roots office and took an immediate joy to sinking teeth and claws into the back of vendors' and volunteers' legs.

"I like it here most of the time," Rooty purrs. "I've kind of got it made."

Office Cat Rooty can be found most days sitting in the Street Roots window meowing at birds.

"It was a Catch-22," Rooty said through a variety of vocal meows. "I had a

**CORRECTIONS**

Re: "Homeless men rounded up as free film extras." Street Roots, March 19.

It was erroneously reported that more than 150 homeless men were rounded up as unpaid extras for a recent motion picture filming in the Park Blocks, where they were forced to perform for three days as "wedding guests Nos. 1-157."

It was also not true that they were forced to wear makeup tested on animals. The makeup was cruelty-free, sources say — now.

Nor was anyone denied the vegan option by craft services.

Nor did Portland make \$12,550 in revenue from filming permits. The money was collected from camping violation citations.

Some days, Street Roots regrets ever putting out a newspaper.

Correction Policy: Street Roots strives for accuracy on some occasions. If you think you can do better, write to us at [info@wweek.com](mailto:info@wweek.com).

**Vendor Wish List**

Donations keep Street Roots and our vendors working by keeping our operating costs low.

- Socks
- Lil Hotties
- Paper cups
- Hygiene items
- Towels
- First-aid supplies
- TriMet bus tickets/passes
- Printer paper
- Toilet paper

**VENDOR WORK ADS**

Craig Preston: Labor work, \$12 an hour, please call the Street Roots office to inquire: 503-228-5657

Tibor S.: Available for any labor work around a house. 1-201-539-1888

Cassidy Morse: Looking for work. Will do most anything, light and heavy. \$10 an hour, four-hour minimum. References supplied. Please call 503-224-5398 or Street Roots at 503-228-5657



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[www.centralcityconcern.org](http://www.centralcityconcern.org)  
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