

Brightwood 'slugs' it out

by PHIL CHRISTENSEN
Correspondent

Brightwood's Fifth Annual Slug Race was held Saturday at the Brightwood Tavern, where hundreds of fans and trainers gathered to watch the contestants slug it out.

Some of the trainers had put their slugs through rigorous schedules for the competition. Others took a more casual approach, such as Chuck, who commented, "I just picked up a few in my yard."

Judy is the owner and trainer of slugs "Don" and "Eileen." "I named them after my parents in Wisconsin," she said. Don and Eileen each weighed in at 120 grains, which classified them as lightweights.

In that lightweight class, Doug Andrew's "Speedy Gonzales" left the other contestants in a trail of slime. The obvious friskiness of Doug's slug raised questions about drugs.

Local NADS (No Against Drugged Slugs) representative, Margie O'Cain, was on the spot to give "Speedy" a clean bill of health, as she did with all the winners. Slugs are only checked for drugs if they win.

"Due to the number of contestants," O'Cain said, "we can't test them all. Really, it's been a clean race." O'Cain did admit, though, that the event was, "a bit sluggish at times."

One high point of the evening was the coronation of the new Slug Queen, Lauren McCay. Last year's Slug Queen, Karen Goen, passed the cape and crown on to McCay. The excitement of the event dimmed to a reverent hush. "It's a real honor to be a damned Slug Queen," she managed to choke out, and called for the races to resume.

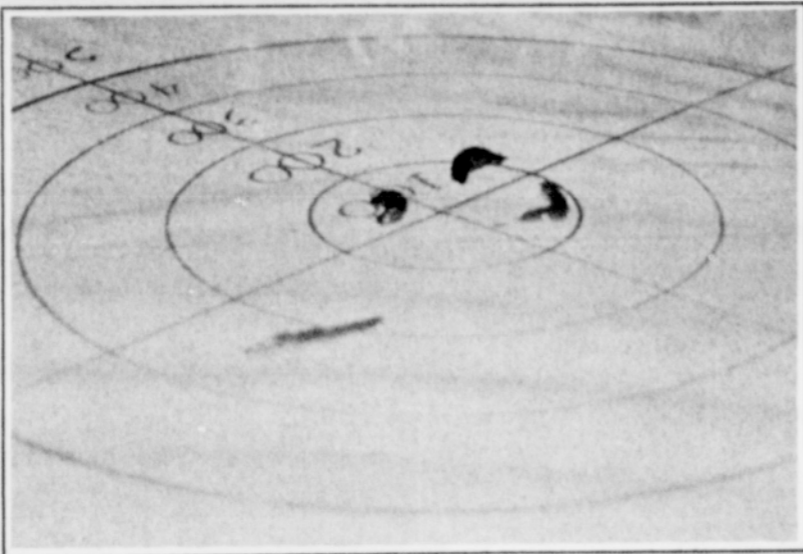
In honor of the soft and slimy athletes, Brightwood Tavern had changed the titles on its menu. Slug Sausage and Slug Burgers were being ordered. "Bring me another Slug Cooler!" someone shouted to an overwhelmed waitress. She was already carrying a slug of beer to someone else.

The races were an opportunity for the slugs to present their personalities, a virtue some find keenly missing in the creatures. For example, "Bucky Baboso," a Mexican slug owned by Rose and Rod Schultz, added a bit of south of the



A crowd gathers to watch the slug races.

Photos by Phil Christensen



Contestants race to the middle of the circle.

border zest. A big honcho, "Bucky" weighed in at 280 grains.

A Canadian Entrant, "Terra Nova," was ushered to the festivities by owner Linda Wagner. Wagner had to bring the contestant in a small cage. "He's a killer slug," Linda noted.

The winning slugs, besides "Speedy," included Marge O'Cain's middleweight "Ron D.

Voo II." Heavyweight winner, "Judy," was the overall victor, owned by Paul Calewatts from the USS Paul Foster. Calewatts and his slug received a Sunday brunch for two, while owners of winners in the three weight categories won sweat shirts.

Proceeds from the event, totaling more than \$1,500, went to Hoodland Senior Center, and tripled last

year's figure. Bob and Gale Swarts, owners of the Brightwood Tavern, were delighted with the response from the community. "We had 55 entries, altogether, with slugs ranging in weight from 90 grains to one that was over 500," Swarts said. "We pegged the scale on that one. He looked like a hotdog sitting there."

"The success was far more than anything I had hoped for," Swarts said of the event. He said he had not anticipated being able to generate more than \$1,000 for the Senior Center. In fact, Swarts had even placed a friendly bet that the race would not net over \$1,000, since last year's total had been less than \$500. "That was one bet I was delighted to lose," he said.

"Everyone was very positive about the experience," Swarts said.

Swarts said the Brightwood Tavern plans to host the races again next year. "We'd like to see it be a township event, instead of something limited to the tavern."

Not everyone viewed the slug races with great enthusiasm, however. Six-year-old Prescott Vanderhoff summarized slugs as "slimy," and said that he "just steps on them."

Burn number announced

People from Aims, Eagle Creek, Boring and Sandy have a new number to call to find out if the state Department of Environmental Quality is allowing burning. The number is 760-2938.

Gary Connelly, chief for the Sandy Fire District, said people in the Sandy and Boring districts could call the number for the daily reports on whether burning is allowed.

The winter burn season is from Oct. 1 to Dec. 15.

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Labor dispute

Continued from Page 1.

Davey and the Sandy Education Association, Heaton looked in on her class daily and questioned Davey each time he saw her talking to a union official. It further states she was unfairly reprimanded for giving a high percentage of failing grades to students. In addition, it charges that Vice Principal Harrison told Davey that pursuing the grievance could cost the teacher her job.

Heaton denied harassing her for talking to union officials. He also testified that district administrators talked to a number of teachers about the high number of failures being given.

Heaton said the district is trying to keep students in school by giving them extra help instead of dismissing them with failing grades.

Michele Miller, former head of the social studies department at Sandy and now an instructor in West Linn, said she was told by Principal Dennis Crow and Heaton to monitor the work of Davey and Tom Beaman daily. They were the two teachers in the department with the highest rate of failure among students.

Miller said she pointed out that Davey had received good evaluations as a teacher and that if there was a

problem, daily monitoring was "not an appropriate remedy."

Miller said Heaton then suggested that Davey's involvement in the union was reason enough to monitor her class. He also pointed out that "she's a friend of Roberta's," Miller said.

Roberta Hutton is the superintendent who preceded Heaton.

Pamela Stebbeds, lawyer for the school district, asked Miller if Heaton indicated he wanted to "get rid of" Davey because she was a member of the union. Miller said no.

Stebbeds then asked if Miller felt the method of dealing with the failure rate was set up to intimidate Davey because of her union activities. Miller said no.

Davey and Harrison offered differing testimony concerning Davey's claim that Harrison threatened her job. According to the Sandy Education Association's complaint, Harrison told Davey to drop her grievance or be prepared to go back to "peeling cucumbers or whatever it was you did before becoming a teacher."

Harrison denied having made the remark. "I've never heard that phrase (peeling cucumbers) before,"

he said. Despite the charge of harassment, the district's lawyers pointed out that Davey had received good evaluations as a teacher.

"She's done an excellent job in the classroom," Heaton said. "That's why I don't know what's going on (with this hearing). I guess if there is one thing I would question (about Davey), it is her relationship with others."

Davey said she kept a diary after Heaton's attitude toward her changed.

Heaton did not keep a diary and at

least seven times admitted not knowing or remembering details of incidents.

"I think the record will show you (Heaton) have a hard time with recollections and the order of things," Gamson said.

After Greer renders a decision on the complaint, either side may present opposing testimony before the three-member Employee Relations Board.

The Employee Relations Board then will issue a final order, which may be challenged in the state Court of Appeals.

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Police log

On Sept. 22, Debra Lee Efferson, 31, of Sandy, was charged with driving with a suspended license.

On Sept. 19, Roy Spencer Gates, 26, of Sandy, was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants and driving with a suspended license.

On Sept. 14, Larry Riley Alcorn, 28, of Portland, was charged with driving with a revoked license.

On Sept. 14, a 17-year-old juvenile was charged with second-degree theft after taking 75 cents worth of gum from a local convenience store.



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