



Men of Eugene

Calendar boys and Kesey contributors.

By Bobbie Willis & Jamie Passaro

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hey, Eugene, where are you, and what're you doing for fun, for work, or just to pass the time? This new, occasional column is part observer and eavesdropper, part day-after gossip, reflecting upon the Eugene scene.

Mr. Hubba Hubba

It all started with two young women and a lie: During a recent night out carousing, Cheri Browne said to her friend Courtney Anglin, "Courtney, tonight we're going to have the best idea we've ever had..."

The idea turned out to be a white lie the two fabricated to get the attention of one hunky "Rory." "We're going to do a calendar," they said. "You would make a great model." But there was no calendar, no modeling opportunity — just a good looking fellow and two women working the vibe.

Quick call to their friend Crystal Walen, local promoter with Realkidz Productions. "We met this cute guy and kind of promised him a modeling gig..."

Walen: "First, I'm like, 'Good luck. Where is there money to make a calendar?' But the more I thought about it, the better an idea it seemed."

So Friday after Thanksgiving, the three women — along with the crew at John Henry's — pulled together The Men of Eugene Booty Pageant, searching out a dozen local he-men for an actual Men of Eugene calendar. (Ironically, original muse Rory opted out.)

In her press release for the event, Walen writes, "[The] men that run our bars and [coffee shops], diners and restaurants are invited to flaunt their goodies and talents." Despite the holiday weekend, the event drew a sizeable crowd and 20 local contestants vying for a calendar spot.

The pageant competition, bacchic debauchery according to all, included three questions (such as, "How do you like your eggs?") and an opportunity for each man to display a talent. No tap dancing or overwrought renditions of *Für Elise* here: Acts ranged from a bartender breaking a board over his head to a body piercer juggling lemons in the nude ("I didn't drop a single lemon!") to a break-dancing VRC retail manager to — this writer's favorite — a gentleman who could remove his boxers without removing his pants. The audience voted for the top 12 men, and it was Mr. John Henry's (John Henry himself) who walked off in cowboy hat and cummerbund with the most votes.

Twenty-one-year-old contestant David Hansen arrived with friends and family, including his grandmother, in tow. When asked what he learned from his participation, Hansen replied, "Well, I thought it was interesting, but I probably shouldn't have brought my grandma." (Calendars will be available before the new year — contact realkidzproductions@yahoo.com for more info.) — *Bobbie Willis*

Brought to You by...

If you alphabetized the list of supporters and contributors to the Kesey statue fund from Jean Auel to Bryce Zabel, you'd probably recognize your neighbor alongside Neil Goldschmidt; the String Cheese Incident alongside the Stanford English Department. You'd have Barry Lopez alongside Hattie Mae Nixon (who met Kesey at a 4-H campout in 1950) alongside Larry McMurtry alongside Kenny Moore; Wavy Gravy alongside Bill Walton alongside *Rolling Stone* Editor Jann Wenner alongside Cynthia Wooten and Tom Wolfe.

It's that Kesey synchronicity, plus hard work, plus love. Working from her home office, Cathy Briner, the former deputy director for planning and development for the city of Eugene, along with Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Brian Lanker and the Lane Arts Council, helped raise more than \$120,000 — from a former UO wrestler's \$2 contribution to Phil Knight's \$25,000.

Briner spent hours tracking down celebrities and, in doing so, acquired tidbits that read better than *Star Tracks* in *People Magazine*. "It's been really amazing that you can write a letter to someone and they'll turn around and send you a check," said Briner over tea last week. The money is still coming in, and with each check, a story of meeting Kesey or being changed by his words. Briner tears up when she talks about it.

There was the time she received a reply from Paul Newman with a check for \$10,000. There was Kesey's fraternity brother, who called from Nevada saying he'd think about contributing. He called again to find out what Lane Arts Council's administrative fee would be. He wanted to donate \$1,000, plus that amount, to ensure the thousand would go to the memorial.

There was former UO President Dr. Robert Clark, who had written the letter of recommendation for Kesey to the Stanford Creative Writing Program. He was one of the first contributors. Then, the Monday after the unveiling, he walked into the Lane Arts Council office and wrote another check for \$5,000.

Though it was reported in *The Register-Guard* and on KVAL that Jack Nicholson sent a check, he didn't. Briner sent him a letter, but he never wrote back. Briner wonders if it might have had something to do with Kesey having wanted Gene Hackman to play the role of McMurphy in the movie version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Out of all the letters, e-mails and calls, Briner says there were only two definite no's, both from people condemning Kesey's past drug use. Many others wrote to say they wanted to contribute but couldn't.

Kesey's grandkids helped out by making laminated, brightly tasseled bookmarks with a photo of Kesey in a starry shirt and his quote, "People think love is an emotion. Love is good sense." They sold them at the unveiling and made nearly \$200. — *Jamie Passaro*

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN BY SHANNON WHEELER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO-GROWTH SILLINESS

In your 10/30 "Slant" column, you refer to Jack Roberts' economic development ideas as "obsolete" because they will "draw more people to our valley" and "even 1 percent growth" will destroy the livability of our community.

Hold the presses, *EW*, I've got breaking news for you. The Willamette Valley continues to grow. No amount of blind, no-growth silliness is going to stop it. During our current economic recession, in-migration has continued unabated. Even without jobs, our area grows. According to LCOG's Region 2050 study, our area will double in population to over 500,000 by 2050, regardless of economic development policy.

Job growth through business recruitment could provide welcome relief to the over 12,000 current residents of Eugene and Springfield who are out of work and looking for a job. Creating new jobs would also retain and attract something every healthy community needs: families. Families provide support for schools, libraries, parks and social services. Families have an obvious stake in the future and provide community volunteers and support for community-based organizations.

Your no-growth strategy would most likely not stop or even slow growth. Growth would continue. But without job creation, it would likely be limited to people who don't need or don't want jobs. Nothing wrong with those folks, of course, but we need diversity in our community and we need citizens with a stake in the future. We should work diligently to create jobs that put our citizens back to work and support Oregon families. The economic development ideas expressed by Jack Roberts are just exactly what this community needs if we are to accomplish that goal.

*Bob Warren
Eugene*

STINKING DUCKS

I have been a fan and avid reader of *Eugene Weekly* for a few years now. I especially appreciate the hilarious comics and of

course the honest reporting and event calendars.

However, I am at a loss as to describe my feelings about *Ducks Illustrated*. You see, I'm a student here at OSU. Although it was fun for a while to see all those losses listed on the Duck's schedule this year, as a proud Beaver, it's insulting and an affront to have to see *Ducks Illustrated* week after week. Ethical questions aside, however, what a waste of resources to include all those inserts for everyone in Corvallis.

We don't need your stinking *Ducks Illustrated!* I'm not going to stop picking up the publication every week, but I just have to get this off my chest.

Thanks and keep up the (otherwise) great work!

*Tim Nam
Corvallis*

CLASSY CARTOON

Great "Viagra" cartoon (11/26) ... would be right at home in a public restroom stall.

Keep up the high class and soon the editorial content will be on a par with that same venue.

*Dan Schmieding
Eugene*

WEP REDESIGNED

A recent column by Mary O'Brien ("Wise Collaboration," 10/9) stated that environmentalists had succeeded in stopping the West Eugene Parkway. She wrote that collaborative effort in the local environmental movement includes "Protecting the Willamette Valley's last wet prairie wetlands from an unneeded five-lane highway."

While wet prairie is an extremely rare ecosystem, the west Eugene wetlands are not their "last" location. The WEP would not be five lanes wide. And, the Oregon Department of Transportation just completed a nearly year-long, half-million dollar redesign of the WEP.

The WEP will be dead when the money appropriated for it is used for other projects