

# WHAT'S happening



The season would not be the same without Eugene Ballet Company's ***The Nutcracker***, and this week, the festive holiday staple makes its 2003 appearance at the Hult Center. Don't miss EBC Artistic Director Toni Pimble's take on the classic ballet. See Friday Calendar.



Up-and-coming singer/songwriter **Megan Slankard** might be just 20 years old, but her accomplishments *and* her voice reflect a worldliness for which many artists several years her senior can only strive. Slankard, who just released her second CD, *Freaky Little Story*, has performed in hundreds of venues during the past five years and has received coveted honors, including Song and Film's spotlight artist for November. She was also a finalist in Pantene's 2002 Pro-Voice Competition – a shining star among more than 1900 entries. With her haunting lyrics and addicting voice, one in a million would be a more accurate description. Catch Megan and her band at Café Paradiso this week. See Saturday Calendar.

"I've heard a lot of wonderful stories about myself," **Ramblin' Jack Elliot** has been quoted as saying, "enviable – I wish I could have done it." However, what Elliot *has* done dwarfs the myths. The cowboy poet, musician, truck driver and sailor's adventures are better than fiction, beginning when he left home at the age of 14 to work the rodeo. Elliot has been known to slip quietly in and out of places, never staying anywhere for long. Eugene audiences will have a rare chance to catch the elusive musician at The Shedd this week. See Friday Calendar.

Get into the spirit of the season this week, with the "**Cool Yule**" Christmas concert at Cozmic Pizza. Attendees will have a chance to hear special holiday music from Portland pianist TK Conrad and local violinist Kristin Nusser – all while donating to a worthy cause. All donations from the event will go to St. John Bosco House, an organization that provides a safe and stable place to live for homeless women ages 18 to 25. Just in the past year, the St. John Bosco House has assisted more than 52 homeless women and 16 children, as well as serving more than 8,000 meals. Tickets for the "Cool Yule" concert will be by donation. See Thursday Calendar.

