



Lyn Bowers
BEST ARTIST

Why do you think that you deserve to win? I moved from Portland to Eugene without too much knowledge of Eugene, but I came with new and fresh ideas. I am proud of our longevity and don't think that we could have done this if we weren't doing something right. *Tell us something that only your close friends know about you.* My first business was when I was 19 years old — I started the oldest skateboarding/snowboard shop at the base of Mount Bachelor.

BEST ARTIST: LYN BOWERS

2nd: Dan Hitchcock

3rd: Jill Freeman

Do you think you deserve to win? Definitely. I have been doing art for so many years, in so many venues around here, that it's about time! (ha ha) *If you were an animal or a vegetable, what would you be and why?* At this time of year, I think I'd like to be a squirrel. They are just so active in the fall, what with storing all their nuts and all.

BEST FEMALE MUSICIAN:

LAURA KEMP

2nd: Shelly James

3rd: Deb Cleveland

Do you think you really deserve to win? Fuck yeah. Sure, I guess. There's a lot of great musicians. There's a lot of awesome female musicians and sometimes I feel like I'm hogging it. I think my name's out there and a lot of it's name recognition. I play in town and I just released a new CD that's gotten good publicity. It's on KLCC and KRVM. I've also lived in this town for 14 years and have been working pretty hard at it. *Where was your first kiss and with whom?* It was your typical 12-year-old spin the bottle game when I was a kid living in Verona, Wis. It was my neighbor Brad. I think we had to go outside behind a car. He was my age but yeah, he decided to take it a little further than a peck and horrified, I pulled away and said "Ew! Gross! Get your tongue out of my mouth." And nothin's changed since. Wait, don't print that last part or I'll never get a date.

PEOPLE

BEST CHEF: PORN WA DEE GAMER AT RING OF FIRE

(See Best of the Best, p. 16)

2nd: Ibrahim Hamide at Soriah

3rd: Patrick McKee at Zalayla

BEST ACTIVIST: HOPE MARSTON

2nd: Jeffrey "Free" Luers

Why do you think you won? It's funny because a lot of the work I did that caused people to think I deserved to win as an activist was done a year or two ago. This year I've been working with Eugene/Springfield Solidarity Network, a Jobs With Justice chapter. But I don't know that I've done anything really striking while doing that job. Probably the more striking work I've done has been independently, following my passion and trying to fight injustice. *What is your deepest fear?* I don't tend to respond through fear. I went through a period of introspection in 1995 through

1997 where that came up, acting out of faith rather than fear. I think of a lot of people in these post 9/11 days worry that the FBI will bug their houses, that they'll be put on some kind of list. I'm not afraid of that, that just makes me more determined to fight it.

BEST BARTENDER: DON MIKE AT RING OF FIRE

(See Best of the Best p. 16)

2nd: Rah at The Wetlands

3rd: Ty at Sam Bond's

BEST LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL: KITTY PIERCY

(See Best of the Best p. 16)

2nd: Peter DeFazio

3rd: Jim Torrey

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY: STORM AND DENNIS, 94.5 FM

2nd: Downtown Deb

3rd: Molly B

EW talked to Dennis Nakata:

Do you think you really deserve to win? Boy, that's a great question. You want the truth? I think we've been loyal to the community, and we care about the community. So if loyalty and caring counts, then sure. *What's your worst on-air disaster?* How much time do you have? When I was 14, I was working at a station in Portland. It was my first night on the air, and time for me to play a commercial. The commercial didn't start. The 14-year-old got flustered and I used a four-letter word and the microphone was still on. *How many seconds did it take for you to hear about that?* The next call was someone asking me if I knew I'd said that, and I went "No, @#%!"

BEST PRINT JOURNALIST: BOB WELCH

2nd: Alan Pittman

3rd: Sally Sheklow

This *R-G* columnist and former feature writer is a popular read, bringing a sense of warmth and humor to his stories and perspective. Welch stays close to home, writing about efforts to open a new library in Creswell, a husband fulfilling his wife's dream to attend the Oprah Winfrey show, a boy struggling with leukemia granted the opportunity to play the sport he so desperately loves: football.

BEST LOCAL BUSINESS PERSON: TROY SLAVKOVSKY OF DIABLO'S & LORI READER OF PEGASUS PIZZA

(See Best of the Best p. 17)

EW talked to Troy Slavkovsky, general manager of Diablo's:



Dennis & Storm
BEST RADIO PERSONALITY



Mild Bill
BEST TATTOO ARTIST