

A&E DISTRICT

I like Brett Campbell's ideas as expressed in his (9/23) article "Catalytic Convergence: The Art of Downtown Revival." Downtown is ripe for the creation of a defined Arts & Entertainment District. What better way to animate that district than to take some of our empty buildings and provide temporary, very cheap or free studio, rehearsal, and work space for composers, visual/digital artists, video/filmmakers, writer/poets, theater artists, and choreographers.

They will "pay their rent" primarily by creating world class happenings that attract thousands of local and out of town visitors. It is absolutely the key to making this downtown, and any downtown, the kind of truly exciting place that everyone wants to visit.

Robert J. (Robb) Hankins
Eugene Cultural Services Director

ARTS AS CATALYST

The Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts envisions a lively, active and economically viable downtown. Since we opened our doors a year ago, DIVA has featured more than 30 exhibits by local and regional artists, has hosted more than a dozen award-winning independent filmmakers and their films, and we hold classes for youth and adults in a wide range of art media. Working with Lane Arts Council, Downtown Eugene Inc. and Maude Kerns, we created ArtFest to bring the work of local artists to the downtown community in conjunction with First Friday ArtWalk.

We have brought to bear on downtown the power and energy of hundreds of volunteers and members to rejuvenate our downtown community, using the arts as a catalyst.

In response to Brett Campbell's Viewpoint of 9/30, an article about artists and arts groups collaborating to create a vital arts scene in our city, DIVA is ready to cooperate with other community arts institutions and to entertain proposals from visual and performing arts groups who would like to use our space to collaborate to develop new works, exhibits and performances. We welcome interested individuals and groups to contact us at programs@divanow.org or 954-8373 with proposals for use of our space and collaboration with our membership.

Randy Stender, Chair
DIVA

TRAIL DOG

My mom gets *EW* and I always read it. I really like the Outdoors articles by James Johnston because we go hiking a lot. But this was my favorite article (10/21) because it had a dog in the picture. I really like hiking with dogs. Can you tell me more about the dog? I think animals are really important and sometimes smarter than people!



Lucy Epstein
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: James Johnston tells us the puppy's name is Rhoda, not quite 4 months old. She will probably be 40-50 pounds when she stops growing. She's a mix of American pit bull and Rhodesian ridgeback.

MAKE HEADS ROLL

Respectfully, I'm outraged and somewhat alarmed that the police in Jacksonville would shoot into a crowd, no matter the political party (news brief 10/21). This is incredible that the police think they have the right to shoot into a crowd. This is criminal. There must be an investigation into this, and heads roll. The government is here to help us and protect us, not attack us.

Citizens, we must be vigilant and united. Government tyranny starts with small steps.

Dan Lavielle
Seattle

THE OTHER SIDE

Using the earth's ambient temperature to pre-heat or pre-cool a house sounds like a good idea. And it is, as long as you have enough water available for the heat exchange system. These systems can and do run wells dry. Basically any time the system is on, the water is running. Watershed analysis, which measures the number of upstream miles of creeks that run dry every year by a specified date, shows us that the water table is dropping at our (upstream) end of the Willamette Valley.

Essentially, every new toilet flush added to the (overdeveloped, downstream) Portland area, means less water available for Lane County. The 50-year trend shows that our creeks, rivers, and wells could be headed for trouble. I think this worth considering in the dialogue about sustainable energy and a sustainable civilization. Water is cheap, unless you don't have it. Let us not forget that there is conflict in the Middle East about oil and water. Their fertile valley is now a desert. I'd like to think that ours won't be.

Don Schneider
Pleasant Hill

URK!

How in the world did a large corporate bookstore come in second in the Best of Eugene survey? And Downtown Deb lost out to a commercial radio "personality"? What is this town coming to? And who is reading the *Weekly*?

Ralph Wombat
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: It seems all sorts of people are among our 91,300 regular readers. Along with the stereotypical lefty tofu eaters are 11,680 Republicans, 5,300 Buick owners, and 22,300 people who ate at McDonalds last month (Media Audit).

HIP-HOP AROUND

I must admit that when I opened up the *Weekly* to see almost a whole page dedicated to hip-hop I was surprised. Hip-hop, as a culture, is represented in every town and city across the country, and Eugene is definitely included. Unfortunately most people do not and will not ever know the beauty of hip-hop art and creativity. Or give it a chance, for that matter.

I hope that more articles like this make people, and adults generally over 35, realize that this art form is shaping the younger generations with creativity. Many people that I know that are into hip-hop as it should be, par-

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