

The Dirt

• Something that has received very little attention is the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) study of the replacement options for the Van Buren Bridge, which spans the Willamette River between Linn and Benton counties. There have been rumblings here and there that ODOT has called together a committee of Corvallis citizens to examine the options, yet very little information is readily accessible. Perhaps it is that gag order placed on members of the citizen committee – an interesting policy for the examination of a public resource. Still, two of Corvallis' advisory boards have provided written comments to ODOT, favoring the option to maintain the bridge even if a modern bridge is constructed nearby.

A similar process was carried out over a decade ago to look at options for this bridge, with the conclusion from that committee being that the community should keep the 1915 swing-span bridge, the oldest remaining in Oregon. The latest tidbit, uttered by an elected official, was that it appears the current committee is headed in this same direction, with the bridge slated for a new life as a pedestrian and bike concourse over the river. However, demolition remains number one on the list of options being considered.

• For many, a visit to the Book Bin wasn't complete without a quick visit with Eloise, the resident cat, and many mourned her recent passing. Now a new cat has taken up residence. It took the staff at the Book Bin three rounds of voting before they finally named her Tess. The other top choices were Abbey and Madeline.



MELISSA BEARNS

• With the beginning of a new school year, the OSU neighborhoods are buzzing with new residents and activity. Except, that is, for the old Sigma Pi fraternity house on Monroe Street. The fraternity moved out of the house last year for new digs a few blocks away on Harrison Boulevard. Since then, the Georgian Revival style house, originally built in 1922 as a single-family home for OSU professor Frank Magruder and his family, has remained empty. The "For Sale" sign disappeared early this summer. Was it carried off to serve as a dorm room decoration, or has someone decided to breathe new life into this worn but glorious structure? Rumor has it that a well-known Northwest eatery is in the process of purchasing the property for conversion to another one of its popular restaurants and pubs. The house fits the profile of a property in which they might have an interest, and certainly this would be a prime location directly across the street from the OSU campus.

• Shortly following three OLCC busts for allowing under-age drinkers into the bar, the Headline Café has closed its doors for good and rumor has it that the owner is taking an extended vacation in Africa. Well known by students as *the place* to go drink if you're not yet 21, Thursdays at the Headline Café were packed, with the crowd often spilling out onto the street.

The bar was also the site of the recent altercation between OSU football player Brent Bridges and Christopher Mattocks. As a side note, on Sept. 27 Bridges was convicted of two counts of fourth-degree assault and sentenced to 24 months supervised probation along with 100 hours of community service for punching Mattocks.

So it's no surprise that Headline Café was on the OLCC's short list. According to OLCC Inspector/Investigator Mark Jaehnig, the bar was busted for failing to card a minor and for allowing alcohol to leave the bar on Nov. 18, 2004. Shepherd Family Inc., the owner listed in the OLCC's licensing paperwork, paid a reduced fine of \$297. Just one month later, on Dec. 16, the bar owner was again ticketed for not carding a minor and also for allowing a minor to enter the bar. Those fines totaled \$1,683. Then on June 3, 2005, shortly before the bar



closed, the OLCC busted the Headline Café again for not carding a minor. This time the option was pay a \$4,950 fine or face a 30-day license suspension.

Looks like letting in the kids only helps out business for so long.

The Dirt includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the Corvallis staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Melissa Bearns at 484-0519 or melissa@eugeneweekly.com

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Vienna Piano Trio



WED., Nov. 2, 2005, 7:30 PM
LASELLS STEWART CENTER

MOZART PIANO TRIO IN B-FLAT MAJOR, KV 502
SCHOENBERG VERKLÄRTE NACHT, OP. 4 (ARR. E. STEUERMANN)
SCHUMANN PIANO TRIO NO. 1 IN D MINOR, OP. 63

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Featuring printmakers Chi Meredith, Angelita Surmon, Kristina Kennedy Daniels, and William Shumway (and lithos by their mentor John Rock)

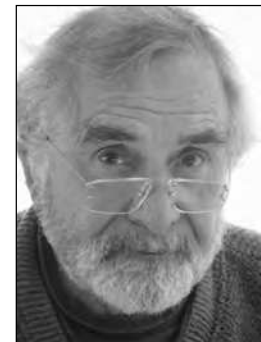
Reception Thursday, October 13th, 6:30-9pm

ALSO IN OCTOBER

Book Release/Book Signing

Nicholas C. Hlobecy's
"A Presence Behind the Lens."

Reception/Book Signing:
Thursday October 20th from 6:30-8:30pm



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