

• Ballots go in the mail April 28 for the May 16 primary election, and as we note in our endorsements, this primary could decide several races. Local election rules say that if a candidate in a nonpartisan race gets more than 50 percent of the vote, that candidate will be unopposed on the ballot in November. It's not an ideal election code, but we're stuck with it. So please take the time to learn about the candidates and issues, and don't just take our word for it. The Oregon Bar website has profiles of judicial candidates, and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters provides information on many candidates' environmental records. The League of Women Voters (www.OregonVotes.org) provide analyses, and of course the Voter's Pamphlet has prepared statements. Oregon's daily newspapers also provide a useful, though sometimes puzzling, source of information and analysis.

• The Osprey Group has come and gone and we're waiting for their consultants' report around the second week of May. The Colorado group spent several days in the Eugene metro area in early April talking to elected officials, government agencies, activists and others about the contentious West Eugene Parkway. Many folks argued their cases for or against the WEP, but the consultants were more interested in how we arrived at this impasse and how we might go beyond it. They will be making recommendations regarding whether or not facilitated collaboration is likely to lead anywhere. The group will return in mid-May for another community meeting. Meanwhile, our mayor and a group of people closely involved in the process are inviting the public to an informational meeting at 7 pm Thursday, May 4 at the EWEB Training Room. The more we all learn about this fascinating process, the more likely we are to reach consensus and avoid years of litigation that further divide our community.



Lois Wadsworth cuts the rug with former Slug Queen Scarlett O'Slimera at DIVA.

• Great turnout for the retirement party for *EW*'s Lois Wadsworth April 21. Hundreds packed DIVA downtown, including people from the visual and performing arts, the UO and LCC faculty, city officials including our mayor, and film buffs who have been reading Lois's movie reviews for years. A live band led by Paul Biondi and Bill Shreve, *EW*'s director of sales and marketing, entertained the crowd and even managed to get Lois boogying on the dance floor.

Current and former *EW* staffers, free-lancers and their families joined the party. Lois is one of the five founders of the newspaper and has retired after nearly 24 years as an arts critic, reporter and editor. She has also organized numerous well-attended film festivals over the years. She plans on returning as a contributing arts reviewer after taking several months off. Party-goers also had a chance to meet Jason Blair and Molly Templeton, who are taking over our local film reviews.

• Daily newspapers everywhere are seeing shrinking revenues and circulation, along with increasing paper costs. *EW* recently heard from a trusted source that *The Register-Guard* is planning to cut page count even further to reduce printing costs, with the bulk of the cuts coming from the local news section. We asked *R-G* management about the rumor, and Managing Editor Dave Baker tells us, "We cut back on newsprint whenever we can," but when the news hole gets tight, "we try to trim out anything but local news."

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the *EW* staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs



Current Queen Frank Slugsnotra

Anyone who's been in Eugene the last two years also knows it poured buckets on the Celebration in both 2004 and 2005, lowering attendance dramatically. "Close to Labor Day, good," Releford said. "Close to Halloween, bad." — *Melissa Bearns*

MYSTERY CITY E-MAIL

A controversial anonymous e-mail that appears to be a city staffer calling Eugene city councilors "elected morons" was not created using the city of Eugene e-mail system, according to City Manager Dennis Taylor.

EW reported on the e-mail last week after Taylor did not respond to inquiries concerning the document. The e-mail was postal mailed anonymously to *Eugene Weekly* with the sender and recipient blacked out. From its contents it appears it may be from a city staffer to Assistant City Manager Jim Carlson.

After the story appeared in *EW*, Taylor responded by forwarding a message from the city's computer department stating that they could find no evidence that the anonymous e-mail was sent to Carlson and the e-mail does not have the city's usual format.

Carlson said he has never seen the anonymous e-mail before. He publicly apologized last week for a different "disrespectful" e-mail he mistakenly sent to a city councilor.

Taylor and his staff did not rule out whether the e-mail could have been sent from a staffer's private computer. The e-mail could be a fabrication, though does appear to have insider information. It states, "we can't wait to get the hell out of this wing" of City Hall and thanks the recipient for "support" of the move. The Eugene Police Department is pushing for new and separate offices, a move Carlson has supported. — *Alan Pittman*



EC DATES ANNOUNCED

The Eugene Celebration is moving ahead on the calendar. The EC board voted April 21 to hold the event Sept. 8-10, three weeks earlier than in the past. Brendan Releford, a partner in BGE, Inc, the company that manages the Celebration, said the two main factors in the decision were weather and UO home football games.

"We came to the realization a few years ago that city services can't support both events [the EC and a home game] adequately," he said. "The city doesn't have enough resources, enough police and other services, to split them between two major events. If you had an emergency at either one, you're stretching the limits."