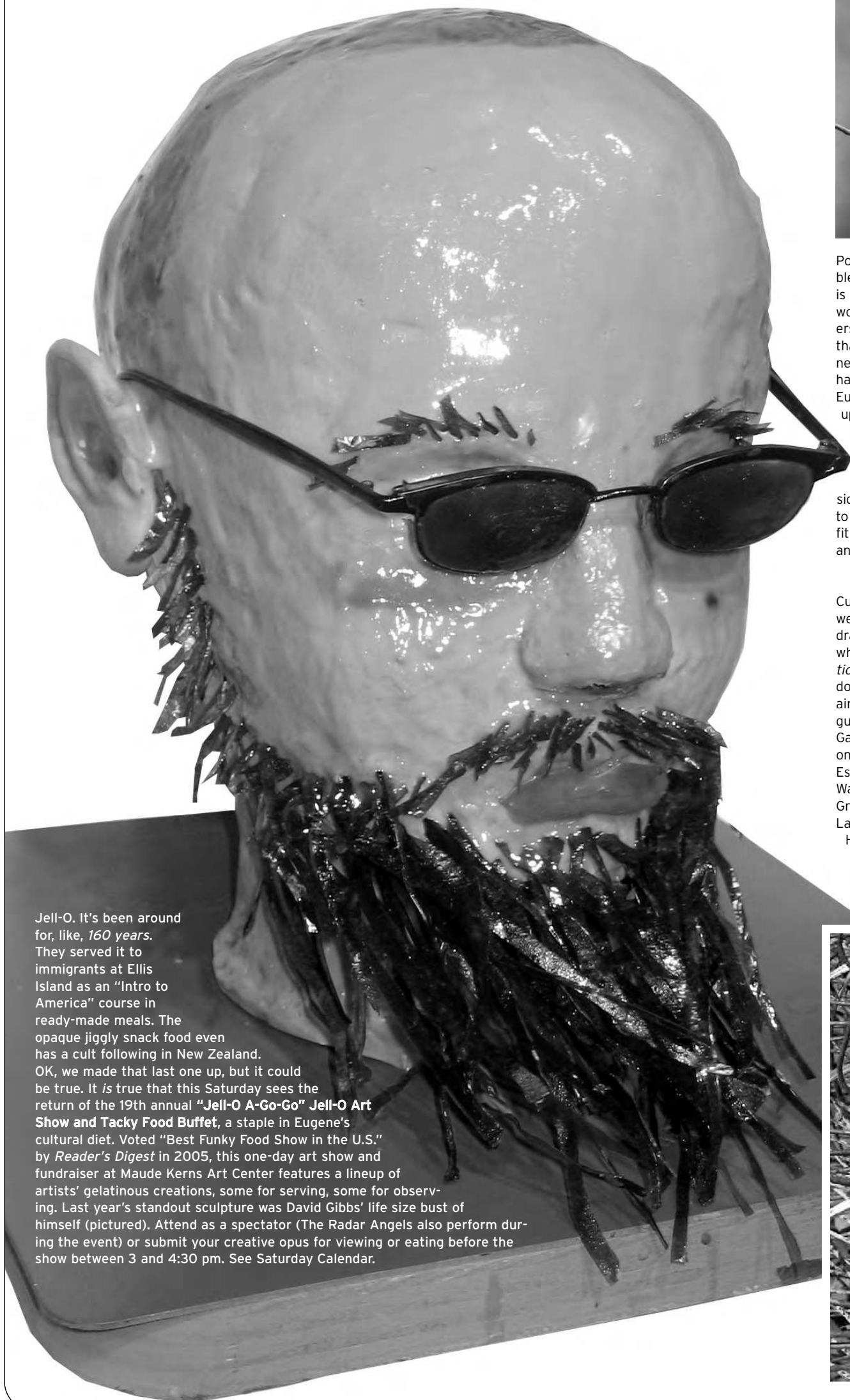


WHAT'S happening



Jell-O. It's been around for, like, 160 years. They served it to immigrants at Ellis Island as an "Intro to America" course in ready-made meals. The opaque jiggly snack food even has a cult following in New Zealand. OK, we made that last one up, but it could be true. It is true that this Saturday sees the return of the 19th annual "Jell-O A-Go-Go" Jell-O Art Show and Tacky Food Buffet, a staple in Eugene's cultural diet. Voted "Best Funky Food Show in the U.S." by *Reader's Digest* in 2005, this one-day art show and fundraiser at Maude Kerns Art Center features a lineup of artists' gelatinous creations, some for serving, some for observing. Last year's standout sculpture was David Gibbs' life size bust of himself (pictured). Attend as a spectator (The Radar Angels also perform during the event) or submit your creative opus for viewing or eating before the show between 3 and 4:30 pm. See Saturday Calendar.



Post-millennium tension ratcheting your stress to terrible migraine levels? Concerned that outright laughter is inappropriate considering all the anguish in the world? Leigh Anne Jasheway-Bryant and the organizers of the 11th annual **Laff Off** want to remind you that – despite all that junk – laughter is still more than necessary. Returning to its original setup (last year had amateurs compete for the title "Best Comedian of Eugene"), this year's Laff Off features 17 local stand up comedians each doing their darn best to get you to lighten up and laugh it off (just like the birds do, see above) down at Actors Cabaret on Sunday.

And, let's face it, with a spoiled child as our dubious commander-in-chief, the humor is all the more sidesplitting. One hundred percent of ticket sales go to Greenhill Humane Society, making this a true benefit and worth every greenback (and guffaw and chortle and ... well, you get the picture). See Sunday Calendar.

Cueing up our crystal ball (or more like waiting for weather.com to load on our computer) we foresee a dramatic *drop in precipitation* through the weekend, which should mean a corresponding *rise in participation* in the great outdoors. Of course, the *great* outdoors is a tankful of gas away, so for some local fresh air, there's always the **Last Friday Artwalk**, a self-guided tour of non-traditional art galleries in town. Gallery 245 has Jerry Jump's close-up photography on display (and pictured below); Better Yet features Esther Bain's pressed leaves and poetry; The Wandering Goat has landscape photography by Chuck Griffin; Infinity Mercantile fittingly displays Laura Lee Laroux's fabric arts; while the Art of Glass has Sue Hunnell, the "flame wrangler," holding live demos of glass bead-making. A host of other venues will be open for you to stop and sip or just relax. See Friday Calendar.

