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Staff Picks

BEST EUGENE-APPROPRIATE BUMPER STICKER

"I'd ride my bike, but some asshole stole it."

BEST '80S NIGHT DANCER

It could be the sweat-soaked guy who always looks coked out (that's soooo '80s, no?), or the lady who sports baggy pants like nobody's business, but for our money, it's the guy who dresses up as Indiana Jones, Marty McFly and Teen Wolf (his midnight transformation from scrappy teen to masked wolf this summer was priceless), among other incarnations. Word is his name is Chuck (not the *EW* staffer) and he only visits on summer and winter breaks from his more contemporary life elsewhere in the States.

BEST QUESTIONS TO ASK FUTURE EUGENEANS

"Why aren't you using the parking garages?"

"Will you sign my petition to save the historic Valley River Center?"

"You look nearly dead, might I give you a lift to the hospital? It's on the way to my tee time at the country club."

NOM NOM NOM-EST REASON TO KEEP SATURDAY MARKET GOING ALL YEAR LONG

We tied our own selves up trying to figure out if we're more addicted to Toby's Palace Salad (Erin's Way, please! The best dressing mix ever) with its tasty tofu, healthy greens and mouth-watering tiny tomatoes or the delectable seasonal goods from Kitchen Witch's Michelle Lodjic, who uses Fern Ridge Dairy's goat cheese for the most excellently local teeny cheesecake bite. Luckily, we have the Holiday Market coming up, and both of them will be there — Kitchen Witch with the evilly attractive Meyer lemon truffles, Toby's with the too, too salty and good paté, and all of it making us long for the market to keep on going at the fairgrounds through the rainy, rainy months that come between Solstice and April when it reopens.

BEST THING (AND PRE-EMPTIVE HANGOVER CURE) IN THE WORLD AT 1:30 AM AT THE HORSEHEAD BAR

A full order of nachos.

BEST BEST-OF-EUGENE-RELATED VOICEMAIL

"Hello, Molly, this is Mason Goche with Azure Ocean. I have a food cart and the reason I'm calling you is because I've been told by dozens of people that they voted for me for Best of Eugene but they put, like, weird stuff. Blue Azure. Quesadilla Cart. Mason. The taco guy. Fish taco guy. Albacore deluxe. All that kind of junk. That's all me. I don't know how else to put it. So ... yeah. If you have any questions or anything, my number is 953-4894 and good luck with the sorting! I'm sure that's one hell of a job. Again, my name is Mason — like a jar — Goche with Azure Ocean. So, good luck, and catch you later."

BEST LOCAL BAND NAMES

Wetsock, The pHormula, Baitball, The Ovulators, Bazil Rathbone, Scrambled Ape, Nail Mary, Birds Love Filters, DoublePlusGood, Ginger Hustlers, Edward Outward, Telepathic Dumpster.

BEST PLACE TO SNIFF BUTTS

With the new off-leash dog park on Royal opening this year, Eugene ups its quotient of most excellent places for our canine friends to run, play, get tangled up in smelling each others' asses and generally wear themselves out. By the way, people, Mount Pisgah is not an official off-leash dog park, though it does provide many a furry four-footer with the chance to meet 'n' greet humans and other dogs alike. What makes the official parks so good are their places to give your dog water and wash off her muddy paws and the bonds that owners make as they stroll around the paths watching King Mister or Sophielicious get socialized, exercised and exhausted all at the same time. Oh, wait, maybe it's actually a human park where dogs take their owners to do the same thing. Sneaky dogs! We love ya though. Hey ... how about a dog park ... downtown?

BEST FEW BLOCKS FOR MAKING FELINE FRIENDS

Walking to work takes us past half a dozen cats, if we go the right way. A tiny, teenager-cat tabby on Washington whose jingling collar alerts us to her presence as she tries to sneak up on us. A pair of round, lazy cats, one black, one black and white, who follow us halfway down 16th until the fence which marks the home of the shy black-and-white cat who isn't quite sure she wants attention. Near the big grassy lot on Lawrence, a tabby and a tuxedo cat with a notch in his ear take turns responding to our calls, each mrowing as if life is unbearably difficult, and don't we have any treats? And on that corner — 15th & Lawrence — is regal, long-haired tabby Bill, who sits on his bench and gives us the evil eye if we try to pass without stopping for an ear scratch.

BEST EVENT WE WISH WE'D BEEN AT

Hello, Whiteaker Block Party! Please to be sending our music editor a press release next time! Damn, that sounded like fun.