

BEST UNDER-VOTED-FOR BARTENDER

You know when you want a drink but you don't know what the hell it is? Maybe it's kind of like a cosmopolitan, but not exactly; maybe it's fruitier, or maybe a little more sour? You go to the Chanterelle bar and you tell Dave Lawrence kinda sorta what you want. And the next thing you know, it's in front of you, delivered with a small, knowing smile. Dave understands what you want better than you do.

BEST UNDER-VOTED-FOR BARISTAS

Maybe it's just 'cause we go to the Novella Café um, almost daily for that late-morning pick-me-up, but we simply adore the counter staff there — a handful of fellas and ladies whose boundless patience never ceases to amaze. Espousing upon the brilliance of cinnamon-sugar bagels or patiently waiting for those indecisive among us to make up our minds about which kind of cream cheese to have, they smile cheerily — but not fakely — while we natter away in their general direction.

BEST DISPLAYS OF RETAIL BRILLIANCE

Can you go into Marché Provisions without buying something? It's not even about what's in the store, half the time (though the goods are quite lovely). It's about how they look. How they're positioned next to items of complementary colors on pretty tables. How every single

thing in the shop would look perfect in every single shopper's kitchen. How the Marché aesthetic is clear in every selection and every display decision. The cohesiveness is ... compelling.

BEST NEEDLESS REQUEST FOR DOWNTOWN

"A bigger bookstore." OK, sure, your precious Borders is all the way out at Oakway. But downtown is not just two blocks. Downtown includes J. Michaels, Books Without Borders and — gasp! — the massive Smith Family across from the post office. Oh, sorry, it doesn't have

a café (for that you'll have to walk a block to the Beanery), or DVDs, or piles of cheesy greeting cards. But it's still there, it's still fantastic and it's still got quite a selection. Plus, you overwhelmingly vote for Smith Family as your favorite bookstore. So what gives? You think Willamette isn't downtown or something?

BEST BUSINESS TO INVITE DOWNTOWN

Hello, McMenamins? We'll apologize on behalf of our readers for that whole "worst service" thing if you'll bring one of your theater pubs to Eugene. Of course, it'd

help if all those *Buffy* screenings hadn't just gotten pulled, 'cause we were dreaming of those, but we can figure something else out. *Twin Peaks* night, perhaps?

BEST REASON TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE R-G

So you can cancel in protest of no birth announcements for babies of gay parents.

BEST THING TO PONDER WHILE WAITING FOR LUNCH

How is it that the tastiest, most jam-packed item on the Phatty Snak Shack's menu (the junior cheeseburger) is also the least expensive?

BEST LOCAL GAME SHOW HOSTS

Erstwhile parlor-trick everyman Tom Heint and his dude sidekick Scott K. keep it real at Sam Bond's Bingo Night as they dish out quips on everything from an old issue of the *R-G* to a mystery chest with plastic fruit inside to Kenny Rogers playing cards to a rusty tin man statue and "Best Granny" signage, all of it winnable at this raucous — and *free* — Monday night mainstay.

BEST PLACE FOR SEX WITH STRANGERS

Eugene dog parks.

BEST BUSINESS PLAN FOR CONNER & WOOLLEY

Sell vacant downtown properties at

BEST ART GALLERY THAT WE (SHAMEFULLY) NEVER REVIEW

Whenever we receive an email from Doug Russell, gallery director for OSU's Fairbanks Gallery, we can't wait for the picture attachments to load. Russell has a knack for bringing in top-notch, relevant, contemporary artists that challenge artistic preconceptions and are, all around, visually exciting creators. When they brought renowned video artist Bill Viola to OSU for a lecture and exhibition, we nearly wet our pants. Now they are bringing in Do-Ho Suh, probably one of the hottest installation artists from the Pacific Rim, for a lecture on Nov. 14. Kudos to OSU! Hopefully we can make the drive up sometime soon!



Thank You Eugene

Thank you for your continued patronage and votes in this year's Best of Eugene.

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