

NUDITY, GUNS, POLITICS & FOOD

Just when you thought you were done with end-of-the-year lists, we've got some more for you. Just what did Eugeneans (and anyone else surfing our website) decide the top stories of 2008 were?

Actually, as it turns out, according to our web guru's results, the news is not the first thing people surf to when going to www.eugeneweekly.com. The most visited site on *EW*'s webpage is the Chow! listings, followed by the Calendar, leading us to believe that Eugeneans are concerned first and foremost about where to go to eat, and second, what to do afterwards.

Our cover stories come in with the third highest amount of hits, followed by news stories. Movie reviews come in fifth and Swizzle, our annual nightlife guide, ties with letters to the editor in sixth place, showing Eugeneans deem the opinions of their fellow citizens as equally important to what to drink at night and who the sexiest bartenders are.

When it comes to the news, the story most surfed to in 2008 according to our web stats was "Back to Iraq" (5/22), the story of James Burmeister, a Eugene soldier who was court martialed and given a bad conduct discharge for going AWOL when he was unable to face killing Iraqi civilians. This story was picked up by a number of blogs and war protest websites across the country.

"A Hard Look at Nude Eugene," (6/5) brought in the second highest amount of readers. Eugeneans apparently appreciate having a guide to where to get naked. That issue, featuring naked Barbie and Ken on the cover, was also the most picked up copy of *EW* in 2008. (Or it was the most recycled, seeing as that several individual stores including a WinCo and Market of Choice on Franklin declined to display *EW*'s clothing-free edition.)



In third place is the Best of Eugene issue (10/30), because what's more fun for Eugeneans than reading about how cool we are in Eugene?

Lane County residents don't just care about naked people and fun, we care about politics. Coming in fourth and sixth in popularity were our election endorsements for the general election (10/16) and the May primary (5/8).

The loss of the UO wrestling program (5/15) was the fifth place top story of the year, and seventh was "Downtown Parks Can Drive Development" (1/24).

Moving from local sports and parks to something a little more racy, the recent (12/4) "Bang Bang Shoot Shoot" ricochets into eighth.

The news page on June 6 was the ninth most visited of our stories. It features several stories, but our web guru thinks it's the tribute to David Minor, a young bicyclist killed by a car, that people are reading.

Our top 10 is rounded out by another news page, this one is Aug. 3 edition, and we're guessing it's the story on accusations of anti-Semitism at UO's Pacifica Forum that's the draw.

So there you go, nakedness and violence

mixed in with a little love, politics and parks, that's what *EW* readers wanted to read in '08. Want to know what the top 10 blog posts were? You'll have to go online for that at blogs.eugeneweekly.com

— Camilla Mortensen

CYCLISTS GEAR UP FOR NEW YEAR

Bike riders in the Eugene area started the new year off with Eugene's Polar Bear Ride Jan. 1, meeting at Fifth Street Public Market and riding north for 20 miles and back. The annual event happens rain or shine. And a number of events involving biking and supporting alternative transportation are planned for January and the rest of 2009.

The city of Eugene is planning a River Road workshop from 3 to 5 pm and 6 to 8 pm Thursday, Jan. 15 at Trinity United Methodist Church at 440 Maxwell. The two sessions will focus on redesigning River Road to better accommodate bike traffic

and connections to the bike path along the Willamette River.

Planning efforts are also continuing this winter and spring on the Rasor Mixed Use Center, an area that includes River Road from Chambers to Hilliard Avenue, and property on the east side of River Road to the river. The goal is to create a mixed use area with higher housing density options, and enhance preservation of the Willamette River Greenway. Commercial services may be included as a way to encourage more walking and biking in the area. See www.eugene-or.gov/rasorpark for more information, or call the city Planning Division's Ken Guzowski at 682-5562.

Across town in the south hills, Eugene transportation planners are working this winter on a collaborative process to identify options for new and improved bike and pedestrian traffic in the area. The Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARs) is meeting with city staff, the Crest Drive Community Team, and people from five neighborhoods in the area. The plan is to identify problem areas and possible solutions for improving pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

Suggestions for alternative transportation improvements in all parts of Eugene can be logged at www.eugene-or.gov/pwprojects and workshops will be planned for later. The website also has a link to the city's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

Coming up is an all-day 2009 Bike/Ped Summit at 9 am Saturday, Jan. 31, at South Eugene High School. The event is organized by Eugene's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy will be there to lead a conversation regarding "support of active transportation as identified in the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation for the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area," according to the GEARs website, www.eugenegears.org. The national Rails-to-Trails group is organizing grassroots support for shifting more federal transportation dollars from highways to bike paths and walking trails. — Ted Taylor

THE FBI WANTS YOU

Companies are laying off employees left and right, but rest assured, there is a job out there for you. The FBI is taking advantage of the pool of available job seekers the crashing economy has created and is advertising a hiring blitz, one of the largest in the agency's 100-year history. The FBI wants to hire 3,000 people, and they want them now (or at least by Sept. 29) for a "variety of mission-critical roles."

The FBI says it is looking to hire 2,100 professional staff employees and 850 special agents. According to the FBI's job website www.fbijobs.gov the agency, all you wannabe G-men (and women) out there can apply to be anything from a "special agent" to a fingerprint examiner to an official FBI woodcrafter.

The FBI's assistant director of human resources says that in addition to looking for people skilled in computer science and in languages, the agency is "also looking for professionals in a wide variety of fields who have a deep desire to help protect our nation from terrorists, spies, and others who wish us harm."

If you're a woman with that deep desire to protect people from vague harm-wishers as a special agent, the FBI's jobs page has a special FAQ page just for



you where you will be assured that you don't have to know how to shoot a gun. The FBI will train you in firearms. In fact, according to the FAQ, the FBI prefers that you don't know how to shoot, because non-shooters "don't have any ingrained bad habits."

And don't worry ladies, the FBI is not hiring women just to fill quotas. The agency calls female agents a "tremendous asset" and says, "We have found that investigative teams composed of a blend of female and male Special Agents are much more effective at bringing complex investigations to a speedy and successful resolution."

At least one Oregonian (a man) has already landed a job with the rapidly expanding bureau. Ronald C. Ruecker, former director of public safety for Sherwood, Ore. (population 16,115; named for Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest) has been appointed assistant

director of the FBI's Office of Law Enforcement Coordination. Oregon's Homeland Security Advisor under Gov. John Kitzhaber from 2001-2004. — Camilla Mortensen