



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

best solo musical artist

1. **Laura Kemp** www.laurakemp.com
2. **Lafa Taylor** www.lafataylor.com
3. **Frank Black** www.blackfrancis.net

Laura Kemp has won Eugene's favorite vocalist and solo performer categories so many times she's lost track, but she still thinks it's pretty sweet to win. "I love it!" Kemp says. "It feels good. I feel very fortunate." That she bested two other extremely popular local singers (though Mr. Black of Pixies fame has only recently relocated here) might sting Eugene's hipster crowd a little, but she *has* been playing her heart out here in Eugene for 20 years. Kemp spent six months of 2008 in India, studying yoga and volunteering at an orphanage, where the kids would teach her Hindu devotional chants played on harmonium and she would teach them American folk songs. She's since been studying harmonium and exploring jazz standards with her new trio 3 On a Tree.

operations with their yummy IPA, which is concocted from hops, malt and yeast harvested nearby, and fresh water tapped from the McKenzie River. "It's the one that leads the way," says Ridge of the conquering brew. In... hic... deed.

best burger

1. **Cornucopia** 17th & Lincoln, 485-2300; 5th & Peal, 485-2676. www.eugenecatering.com
2. **McMenamins East 19th Street Café:** 1485 E. 19th Ave., 342-4025. **High Street Brewery & Café:** 1243 High St., 345-4905. **North Bank:** 22 Club Rd., 342-5622. www.mcmenamins.com
3. **Dickie Jo's** 201 E. 13th Ave. 636-4488.

A newbie to town recently asked me where she could get a good salad. I recommended Cornucopia, to which this resident of only three months answered, "Oh, I can't order salad there. I'll just end up getting a burger." Such is the draw surrounding the luscious, drippy but somehow not-too-bad-for-you-seeming half-pound towers of meat served at the Corn. Even the non-initiated can't resist. Throw in the fact that the burgers are made from antibiotic- and hormone-free beef raised in Oregon, and you might have to put down this paper and go get one right now.

best bakery/sweets

1. **Sweet Life Pâtisserie** 755 Monroe St. 683-5676. www.sweetlifedesserts.com
2. **Hideaway Bakery** 3377 E. Amazon Dr. 868-1982. www.mazzis.com/bakery.php
3. **Metropol Bakery** 2538 Willamette St. 465-4730.

Sometimes you just want to have a reason to giggle like a dirty-minded 9-year-old. Beyond providing a comfortable atmosphere for anything from a date to a birthday party for your best friend's father-in-law, Sweet Life gives you that reason to chortle mindlessly with its "Nipple of Venus." Chocolate and body parts: All is well with the world. The wait staff are fast, friendly and ready to stuff you full of cake, cookies, coffee or whatever else your heart might desire. It's a busy place, so be prepared for some good-natured

jostling as people move between tables or dance by the windows in a frenzy of cake-eating joy.

best selection of beer on tap

1. **The Bier Stein** 345 E. 11th Ave. 485-2437. www.myspace.com/thebierstein
2. **Eugene City Brewery** 844 Olive St. 345-4155. www.rogue.com
3. **Good Times Café and Bar** 375 E. 7th Ave. 484-7181.

best bar

1. **Sam Bond's Garage** 407 Blair Blvd. 343-2635. www.sambonds.com
2. **The Horsehead** 99 W. Broadway. 683-3154. www.myspace.com/horseheadbar
3. **Jackalope Lounge** 453 Willamette St. 485-1519. www.jackalopelounge.com

From the also award-winning Monday bingo night to the wide array of local and national bands, the pizza to the pints, the cheap PBR to the casual and tasty chow, the many charms of Sam Bond's keep it at the top of Eugeneans' favorite bars list year after year. We love it for the back garden, for the bartenders, for the worn wooden tabletops and the aloof cat who avoids outstretched hands and slips into musicians' guitar cases. Sam Bond's is at the heart of the Whit and a magnet for those of us who live just a little farther way; even in the middle of winter, it's worth the chilly bike ride to slip into its warm, welcoming glow, ears burning, fingers tingling as we trade our debit cards for a pair of pints and a seat on a log along the wall.



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best band

1. **Medium Troy** www.mediumtroy.com
2. **Complicated** www.designworksoregon.com/complicated
3. **Science Heroes** www.myspace.com/scienceheroes

Local favorites Medium Troy play what the foursome call bohemian dub, "a mix of all sweet music, with extra emphasis on hip hop, funk, dub, rock and fat bass lines." Local favorites JoJo, J Say Say, Muffin Man, Parker Cohen and Cornelius Dog are a supergroup of sorts based around good glass, good times and good rhymes. With quirky and comical rhymes like this from "Beautiful Day" — "What a beautiful day / I rode my bike to the cemetery / And I got high / My name is Jonaton let me get my stance on / We hold it tight like the belt that keeps your pants on" — no wonder they were voted Best Band by EW readers as well as Favorite Local Band in the WOW Hall's poll in 2007. Plus, boys are so cute when they're goofy.

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