

COLORFUL CUTHBERT CLEANUP QUANDARY

From Life in Color to Run or Dye and Color Me Rad, getting blasted with gouts of bright color has become part of the joy of dancing and fun runs. Fun runs have been criticized for misappropriating the Hindu festival of Holi on which they are based, and more recently there have been concerns about the massive amounts of nontoxic paint blasted at the Cuthbert Amphitheater at Life in Color Oct. 4.

Life in Color features DJs spinning electronic dance music (EDM), paint blasting from cannons and sheet cake being thrown at the revelers, who dress in white and get splattered with bright day-glo colors.

The Cuthbert sits close to the Alton Baker Canoe Canal, which feeds into the Willamette River. Last weekend's show was the third time Life in Color has come to the Cuthbert, and before the show Doug Quirke of the Clean Water Action Project (OCWAP) was contacted with concerns about the paint mixture getting into the river in previous years. OCWAP is a watchdog organization that often works with Willamette Riverkeeper to protect area waterways.

Quirke and *EW* were told that the paint from previous shows was hosed off and presumably flowed downhill into the slough and then into the Willamette River.

Quirke contacted the city of Eugene and received a message from Theresa Sizemore, who told him the paint was considered benign, and that she didn't have any reports on the paint being hosed into the canal. She speculated that what the observer might have seen was the paint being hosed into the discharge point where it would be pumped out later. If any did get into the river, Sizemore said, "People can swallow this and be perfectly fine."

Quirke says that "a substance that can be safely ingested by humans is a pollutant when discharged to waterways, and its effects on aquatic ecosystems are not necessarily benign." He adds, "The Clean Water Act prohibits *all* unpermitted discharges from point sources to water."

Brendan Relaford of Kesey Enterprises, which puts on the shows at the Cuthbert, says, "As the contracted concessionaire of the venue, we have a sense of responsibility for the environmental welfare of the surrounding areas related to show influences, (litter, etc. — including paint)."

Relaford says he provided an abatement and cleanup procedure to every city department that asked for one, including Parks and Open Space, Public Works, Cultural Services and Waste Water Management, and "the plan has been met with no objections."

The abatement plan shows the Cuthbert draining into two discharge points near the canal where there are sunken catch basins, and it says, "The discharge is filtered through river rock bed to prevent erosion of the canal bank." The catch basins are dammed at two points, "one as a debris catch and the other at the discharge point." According to the plan, the wastewater is collected in gray water holding tanks and then taken to a wastewater facility for disposal.

Quirke says the plan looks good, "if that's how things were handled this year." He says, "We need to make sure we leave *Red Fish Blue Fish* to Dr. Suess, and avoid having it play out in our waterways." — *Camilla Mortensen*

ERA: MEASURE 89 DEBATE IS ABOUT EQUALITY AND REDUNDANCY

Women make up 50.5 percent of Oregon's population as of 2013, and yet Oregon does not have an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in its Constitution.

While the fight for a federal ERA continues, Oregon has a chance on Nov. 4 to vote for its own ERA, which would amend the Oregon Constitution to include specific language establishing equal rights for all, regardless of sex.

A laundry list of big names endorses Measure 89, including Gov. John Kitzhaber, Sen. Jeff Merkley, Congressman Peter DeFazio and Speaker of the House Tina Kotek. And yet the measure also has its detractors, from the editorial board of *The Oregonian* to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon.

Central to the debate is whether the constitutional amendment is necessary when Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution says, "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges,



or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens."

Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo, president and founder of the group VoteERA.org, says the current language does not suffice in providing equal rights to women. She says women are currently protected under a 1984 Oregon Supreme Court decision prohibiting sex discrimination, but that particular case says exceptions can be made for "biological differences."

"Not only do women not have equality [in the Oregon Constitution], they don't even have it in case law," DiLorenzo says. "You can't have full equality if there's an exception based on your sex."

Becky Straus, legislative director for ACLU of Oregon, says that while the ACLU supports a federal ERA, the group feels that "the Oregon Constitution already has the strongest possible protection against sex discrimination."

She says each change to constitutions at the state and federal level should be meaningful and thoughtful, and "the idea of amending our Constitution for symbolic purposes is really, at best, redundant."

Straus adds that specifying protections for one particular group could have negative implications in the future for other targeted classes, including racial minorities.

In response to that critique, DiLorenzo says, "What we are doing is providing equality for everyone. The word 'women' is not even in the name of the ballot title."

A 2013 poll by Public Policy Polling found that 75 percent of Oregonians would support an ERA to the Oregon Constitution. — *Amy Schneider*



Ring of Fire has closed and may reopen later in a new location, according to a message on the restaurant's phone service. The Thai and Pacific Rim restaurant, bar and catering service at 11th and Chambers is owned by Josh Keim, and has been a Eugene favorite since around the turn of the century. Keim did not return a message by press time, but the restaurant's Facebook page says chef Pornwadee Garner has retired, and "we look forward to bringing you own newest concept, 'Flying Monkey' — 24/7 community owned not-for-profit restaurant." Keim has two other eateries in town, Lucky Noodle and Granary Pizza Co., which remain open. Some very fine servers from Ring of Fire are looking for work.

We hear **two caskets are for sale** at the St. Vincent de Paul store on Broadway downtown. One is cherry and the other is mahogany. Just in time for Halloween, and the last piece of furniture you will ever need.

Sponsors, the nonprofit agency that assists convicted offenders in reentry to society, is holding its big "Harvesting Hope" gala event from 5 to 9 pm Thursday, Oct. 9, at Studio 5, located at 2975 Chad Dr. Keynote speaker is Rep. Jennifer Williamson. Tickets are \$100 and may be sold out. Visit sponsorsinc.org or call 485-8341.

In labor news, a community rally in support of a fair contract for McKenzie caregivers drew a crowd Saturday, Oct. 4, to Willamalane Park across from McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center. Hospital workers have voted in support of strike authorization. "Will these workers have to strike for fair wages and working conditions?" asks Shelley Pineo-Jensen, director of operations for Eugene/Springfield Solidarity Network/ Jobs with Justice. "Despite McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center being the second wealthiest hospital in Oregon, management is offering the workers a 1.2 percent raise," she says. "For the lowest paid workers, this is pennies and will not cover the cost of the insurance increase management is proposing." Another frustration, she says, is "as the corporation owner buys community hospitals, it guts staffing to increase profit. This leads to a very unsafe environment for patients."

Saturday Market is having a big sale this weekend on the Park Blocks downtown. We hear vendors will be in the mood to discount prices. Good time to begin holiday gift shopping.

Kandy Mountain Treacle LLC is a new business in Eugene that imports wild palm syrup from Sri Lanka to make an alternative sweetener that is popular in Asia but little known in this country. Kandy Mountain's Kithul Treacle Syrup is made from the sap of the fishtail palm and is harvested sustainably, Sprout! owner Scott Wells says. The product is currently in Market of Choice and other stores locally and abroad. "We launched at the Lane County Food Fair," Wells says. "We bottle in Springfield at the Sprout! incubator kitchen and work with a co-packer to produce our new 'stix' that works also with Glory Bee." The business has offices at 2852 Willamette St., Suite 180. See kandymountain.com.

The Tap & Growler is celebrating its first anniversary this week with a "People's Choice best Fresh/Wet Hop Brew in Eugene Blind Tasting Competition." The event kicks off what will hopefully be monthly public tasting competitions. Nine local breweries have submitted fresh hop brews for the competition that continues afternoons and evenings through Sunday, Oct. 13. Participants pay \$12 for a taster tray of nine entries plus a voucher for a free pint good for Monday, Oct. 14. Breweries participating include Agrarian Ales, Claim 52, Falling Sky, Ninkasi, Hop Valley, Oakshire, Plank Town, Plough Monday and Viking Braggot. Tap & Growler is at 207 E. 5th Ave.

A free talk on "**How Businesses Make Money with Facebook**" will be at 6 pm Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Downtown Eugene Public Library, with Nick Wiley talking about exposure, engagement, market research, reputation and sales. Sponsored by LCC Small Business Development Center and SCORE. Call 682-5450.

Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School and the Southtowne Shoppes have paired up to host "Ridgeline Rising," a fundraising event featuring live music, a silent auction, child-based activities, a beer garden and food from local businesses. The event is from noon to 6 pm Saturday, Oct. 11, at Southtowne Shoppes in south Eugene. Music by Mood Area 52, The Sugar Beets and others. Contact jenniferwilson@ridgeline.org.

The 32nd annual Lane County **Home Improvement Show** is this weekend with 225 exhibits featuring home and garden vendors and demonstrations. New this year is the People's Choice Awards for Architecture presented by the American Institute of Architects — Southwestern Oregon. Show attendees will have an opportunity to view and vote for their favorite projects during the three-day show Oct. 10-12. Free with canned food donation requested. See eugenehomeshow.com for details.