

Staff Picks

BEST MUSIC AT 10 AM

In these days of podcasts and iPods, sometimes it's just nice to hit "seek" on the radio and see what music pops up. For some reason that seek moment happens for us to be at 10 am, and without fail, the place we stop is **KRVM 91.9**. Maybe we're showing a gray hair with a love for "adult album alternative" or maybe we like supporting a station that's training high school students to be future DJs, but we love our community radio.

BEST BLOODMOBILE MAKEOVER

Sure, this is Eugene, and old schoolbuses made into hippie RVs are a dime a dozen, but Occupy Medical wins the day with its bloodmobile makeover. Reuse, recycle and save lives. Rain or shine, the folks of Occupy Medical and their shiny red-and-white bus are downtown every Sunday at 8th and Oak giving free medical care to anyone and everyone who needs it. Need a haircut to look good for that job interview? How about basic nutrition or a pair of socks? As the weather turns colder, the all-volunteer crew of OM is there to help.

BEST LIVE MUSIC BOOKING

Word on the street is that music bookers here have fallen into a rut. We hear you, Eugene. How many times can Grateful Dead cover bands headline our biggest venues? Does Con Bro Chill really need to stop in Eugene more than once a year? Looking at lineups from the past five years, it appears we've gotten into some *Groundhog Day*-esque jam-band-meets-EDM vicious cycle.

It's also hard to shake the feeling that bookers don't think women play music, that the ladies are happy to be sequestered to burlesque to make it on local stages. Must you be white, have a dick and a beard and a grubby T-shirt — and be surrounded by five other white dudes with dicks and beards and grubby T-shirts — to get some stage time in this town?

Well, fuck that. We see the musicians and bands heading up and down the I-5 between Portland and San Fran, and we know what we're missing out on. We will kick and scream about raising the standard until something changes, which is why we want to give a shout-out to all the venues that are taking risks and bringing interesting new music to Eugene: **Axe & Fiddle, Sam Bond's, Old Nick's, Wandering Goat, Black Forest, Luckey's, Hi-Fi Music Hall, WOW Hall**. Thank you for always looking out for fresh, original talent. Keep up the good work.

Best of the Best Votes

BEST THING ABOUT EUGENE:

- "Diversity of weirdness"
- "Eugene keeps it real, authentic weirdness, everyone is a grumpy asshole, but only because they actually care"
- "Everyone's a hellraiser"
- "Getting to replace your bike annually"
- "Friendly and small but has it all"
- "It isn't Portland"
- "Cheap weed and sexy women are a tie"
- "Old hippies"
- "That eerie bubble of neo-liberal calm and the illusion that the rest of the world is like this so we never have to actually do any work to change it"
- "Well ... there's enough gravity here to keep me from flying off into the cold vacuum of space, so there's that"



BEST MARIJUANA DISPENSARY

- 1. Oregon Microgrowers Guild** 1395 Cross St. 246-8972. oregonmicrogrowersguild.com.
- 2. Twenty after Four** 420 Blair Blvd. 393-6524. twentyafterfour.com.
- 3. Next Level Wellness** 145 E. 29th Ave. 515-6514. nextleveldispensary.com.

PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTH



BEST ANNUAL EVENT

- 1. Oregon Country Fair** oregoncountryfair.org.
- 2. Whiteaker Block Party** whiteakerblockparty.com.
- 3. Bark in the Park** green-hill.org.

A word to the voters: Eugene Celebration is no longer an annual event. It sucks, but there it is. Time to move on.

PHOTO BY TODD COOPER