



The Oregonian

Keeping Portland weird: Snippets of Stumptown, overheard in public

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Overheard on MAX while crossing the Steel Bridge:

Girl: "Oh, the Nile!"

Guy: "Um, that's not the Nile."

Girl: "Well, I didn't grow up here!"

We all have those moments, on the bus, in elevators, at work -- moments in which we overhear the strangest snippets of other people's conversations.

Overheard at a downtown bus stop:

Guy (wearing a crown and robe): "Portland has really gone to (expletive)."

Girl: "Oh, really?"

Guy: "Yeah, it's gotten so weird that the UFOs don't even land here anymore."

Last year, Portland blogger Rich Brueckner decided to do something about all those overheard conversations. He began posting them on a blog called Overheard in PDX (overheardinpx.blogspot.com).

Overheard in the Hollywood Theatre:

Girl (to friend): "So, Sam thinks I should shave my legs because he feels like the woman in the relationship."

Soon, others were offering their own eavesdropping gems.

Overheard at a gym in Northeast Portland:

Man, referring to Brooklyn restaurant: "Yeah, it's totally racist, but the seafood is great."

Brueckner posts most of the conversations, but is always looking for contributions.

Overheard at the New Old Lompoc:

Bar patron: "I've got their CD. It's like Destroyer meets Bob Dylan."

Bartender: "I thought that going in, but it was more like Devo meets the Jesus Lizard."

The conversations are ludicrous, addicting and often profane, and somehow so true to life.

Overheard at the downtown Borders bookstore:

Mother to preteen daughter: "You better go find the self-help section, so you'll stop abusing me."

-- Steve Woodward

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