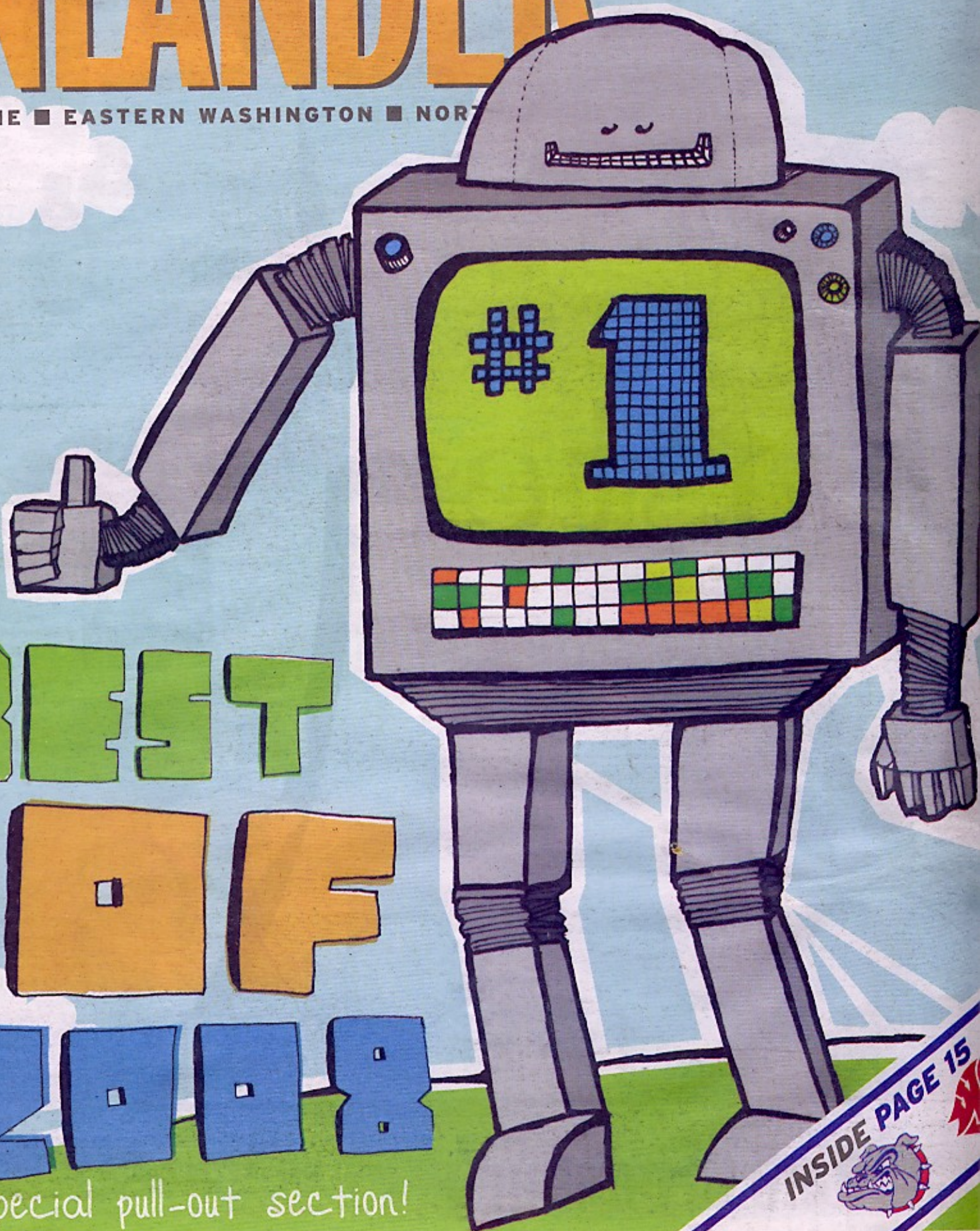


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best place to buy green

ECO DEPOT

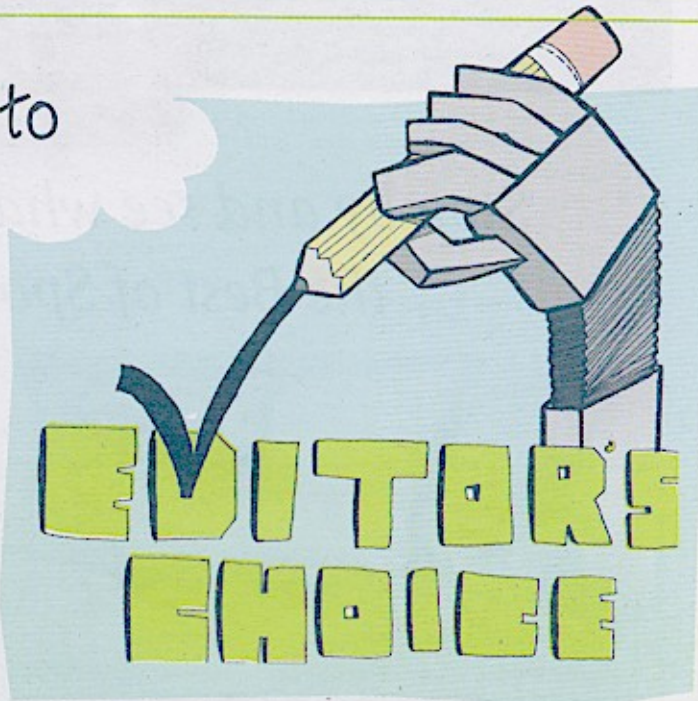
The little green store that could is steaming along at full – yet sustainable – throttle as Spokane hitches itself to the renewable energy train.

“We are getting a lot of interest in solar, wind, paint, flooring and insulation,” says Nadine Sullivan, who runs the eco-friendly home- and building-supply shop at 1326 E. Sprague with partner Glenn Probert and her brother, Bruce Gage.

ECO DEPOT is still a niche business, but interest is growing as awareness of green building materials and techniques expands in Spokane. So far, the Saranac Building (home to the Magic Lantern and Isabella’s), Mountain Gear and the new Convention Center have all earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification by the U.S. Green Buildings Council.

In the past year, green-building initiatives were a topic of municipal election campaigns and even the Spokane Home Builders Association has adopted a green-building initiative.

Good news at Eco Depot, which sells the message as much as it sells the goods. Homeowners and



builders alike are purchasing materials.

Eco Depot is working with a project manager in Kootenai County who’s interested in green, multi-use development, Sullivan says. And there’s big interest in grid-tie photovoltaic solar panels, she says. These are the ones where local utilities agree to credit excess electricity that a home pumps into the system. “Homeowners also earn state and federal incentives and tax credits,” Sullivan says.

Wind generators get “quite a bit of interest but not so many purchases,” Sullivan says. Existing designs are geared to rural or exurban lots. “There is no urban turbine,” she says.

Homeowners, builders and remodelers also check out the store’s lines of countertops, insulation and flooring made from green and recycled materials. “We even have a paint that is made from [recycled] paint,” Sullivan says.

– KEVIN TAYLOR