

PUNK ICON

A WOW Hall concert will honor Joe Strummer and raise money to build a new skate park

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OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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THURSDAY | AUGUST 14, 2008

The independent student newspaper at the University of Oregon | Since 1900

Volume 110, Issue 24

University gets go-ahead for alley vacation

The city will allow the UO to purchase the alley and a neighboring plot of land

JESSIE HIGGINS | NEWS REPORTER

The Eugene City Council approved the vacation of an alley way and another small area of land near the site of the University's proposed new arena.

The approval means the University can now buy these two properties from the city, which brings the University one step closer to constructing the \$200 million arena that will be located at East 13th Avenue and Franklin Boulevard.

The city council approved the sale

with a 5-3 vote after discussing the issue for over an hour. To approve a property vacation, the council must rule that it is in the public interest to sell the land.

University spokesperson Phil Weiler said the University requested the vacation because it already owns property on three sides of the Villard Alley from East 13th Avenue to East 15th Avenue and the triangular portion of East 13th Avenue near Franklin Boulevard.

Before agreeing to sell the properties, council members debated the value of the land to the Eugene tax payers.

"I think that rushing this decision is not in the public interest," Councilor

Bonny Bettman said. "My motivation here is to make the alley vacation be in the public interest."

Bettman began the work session yesterday with a motion to increase the purchase price of the parcels by nearly \$1 million.

The University had already deposited \$482,950 with the city as payment for the properties pending the council's approval, Steve Ochs, associate planner for the City of Eugene, said.

Bettman said she felt the proposed price did not accurately reflect the cost the tax payers would incur by losing public land, including the loss of four parking meters and the cost of

constructing a sidewalk.

However, after several councilors pointed out that it would be difficult to assign another value to the properties without postponing the decision to renegotiate the price with the University, Bettman withdrew the amendment, opting to instead table the decision and re-negotiate the cost of the properties.

At a public hearing on the topic July 21, University officials said postponing the decision on vacating the properties could potentially cost the University millions of dollars.

Even with the acquisition of these two properties, the University must obtain a building permit from the city,

which may be granted after it receives a Conditional Use Permit, before it can begin construction.

"The UO manufactured this sense of urgency to get us to prematurely grant them this alley vacation so that they can get this part under their belt, but they're going to really sit on this for several months," Councilor Alan Zelenka said.

Other members saw the situation differently.

"We've had all the time and information we need to make a well informed and thoughtful decision," Councilor Jennifer Solomon said.

JESSIE HIGGINS
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“The class is really about experiencing what is happening and seeing what it is like down there. My hope is that students will be able to better relate to the immigrant population.” — EDWARD OLIVOS PROFESSOR

Crossing the border

A two-week University summer course allowed students to study immigration first-hand



COURTESY OF EDWARD OLIVOS

The class left for San Diego on August 2 and returned Tuesday with a unique learning experience.

JESSIE HIGGINS | NEWS REPORTER

For Ermila Rodriguez, the topic of immigration has always been close to her and her family. Her mother migrated to the United States from El Salvador years ago, Rodriguez told a solemn audience last Tuesday.

She paused, struggling to maintain composure.

"People don't understand," Rodriguez said.

Through tears of guilt, anger and frustration,

Rodriguez and her 14 classmates returning from a week-long expedition to the U.S.-Mexico border to study immigration first-hand tried to express to their fellow students and several University officials what they had learned during the newly developed two-week summer course.

The class, founded by education professor Edward Olivos, left for San Diego on August 2 for an intensive week working with a local non-profit

organization devoted to helping Latino immigrants on both sides of the border.

"The class is really about experiencing what is happening and seeing what it is like down there," Olivos said before departing for San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. "My hope is that students will be able to better relate to the immigrant population."

The students registered for the new course came

TURN TO IMMIGRATION | PAGE 4

FILM



TRISTAN COOLEN | FREELANCE

Participants can bring 8mm, Super 8mm and 16 mm films to be played during Home Movie Day.

Home Movie Day to allow a glimpse into history

TRISTAN COOLEN | FREELANCE WRITER

Home movies always seem to be one of those things that get better with age. If viewed too soon, the holiday recording or graduation video can seem corny and, frankly, rather embarrassing. But footage of years past — of youthful parents wearing vintage clothes and happy smiles — can be a real treasure.

Unfortunately, few people still have the projectors to view these old film reels, and

TURN TO FILM | PAGE 3

TALK TO US

letters
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- Limit your submission to 600 words
- Submissions should include name, phone number and address
- The Emerald reserves the right to edit all submissions
- One submission per person per calendar month

WEEKEND WEATHER

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FRIDAY



SUNNY

93°/61°

SATURDAY



SUNNY

91°/60°

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1 GORI, GEORGIA

Bush to send massive U.S. aid package to conflicted Georgia

OUTSIDE GORI, Georgia — A Russian military convoy defied a cease-fire agreement Wednesday and rolled through a strategically important city in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, which claimed fresh looting and bombing by the Russians and their allies.

President Bush said a massive U.S. aid package was on the way for tens of thousands uprooted in the conflict and demanded Russia “keep its word and act to end this crisis.”

“The United States stands with the democratically elected government of Georgia and insists that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected,” Bush said sternly in Washington.

One day after the Kremlin and its smaller neighbor agreed to a French-brokered cease-fire to end the dispute over two pro-Russian breakaway territories, the pact appeared fragile at best.

An Associated Press reporter saw dozens of Russian trucks and armored vehicles leaving the city of Gori, some 20 miles south of the separatist region of South Ossetia and home of a key highway that divides Georgia in two, and moving deeper into Georgia.

Soldiers waved at journalists and one jokingly shouted, “Come with us, beauty, we’re going to Tbilisi.” The convoy roared southeast, toward the Georgian capital, but then turned north and set up camp about an hour’s drive away from it.

Georgian officials said the Russians had looted and bombed Gori before they left. Moscow denied the accusation, but it appeared to be on a technicality: A BBC reporter in Gori said Russian tanks were in the streets while their South Ossetian allies seized cars, looted homes and set houses on fire.

As confusion reigned on the first day of the cease-fire agreement, Bush called a Rose Garden speech to express concern about reports the Russians were already breaking it. He said he was sending Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice first to France and then to Tbilisi to reinforce U.S. efforts to “rally the world in defense of a free Georgia.”

For her part, Rice said: “This is not 1968 and the invasion of Czechoslovakia where Russia can threaten a neighbor, occupy a capital, overthrow a government and get away with it. Things have changed.”

2 PUERTO RICO

Venomous red lionfish wreaking havoc in Caribbean waters

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A maroon-striped marauder with venomous spikes is rapidly multiplying in the Caribbean’s warm waters, swallowing native species, stinging divers and generally wreaking havoc on an ecologically delicate region.

The red lionfish, a tropical native of the

Indian and Pacific oceans that probably escaped from a Florida fish tank, is showing up everywhere — from the coasts of Cuba and Hispaniola to Little Cayman’s pristine Bloody Bay Wall, one of the region’s prime destinations for divers.

Wherever it appears, the adaptable predator corners fish and crustaceans up to half its size with its billowy fins and sucks them down in one violent gulp.

Research teams observed one lionfish eating 20 small fish in less than 30 minutes.

“This may very well become the most devastating marine invasion in history,” said Mark Hixon, an Oregon State University marine ecology expert who compared lionfish to a plague of locusts. “There is probably no way to stop the invasion completely.”

A white creature with maroon stripes, the red lionfish has the face of an alien and the ribbon-like look of something that survived a paper shredder — with poisonous spikes along its spine to ward off enemies.

The invasion is similar to that of other aquarium escapees such as walking catfish and caulerpa, a fast-growing form of algae known as “killer seaweed” for its ability to crowd out native plants. The catfish are now common in South Florida, where they threaten smaller fish in wetlands and fish farms.

3 LEBANON

Suspected al-Qaida inspired bombing kills 18, 46 wounded

TRIPOLI, Lebanon — A roadside bomb packed with nuts and bolts exploded near a bus in this northern city Wednesday, killing 18 soldiers and civilians in Lebanon’s deadliest bombing in more than three years.

Many suspected the attack was staged by an al-Qaida-inspired group to avenge a 2007 military offensive. Some questioned whether it was an attempt to disrupt a trip by Lebanese President Michel Suleiman to Syria later in the day to patch up relations between the neighboring nations.

That visit brought a key agreement for the two countries to establish full diplomatic relations for the first time, a move that could ease tensions that have fueled Lebanon’s turmoil.

On Tuesday, the Lebanese parliament approved a new national unity government in Beirut that groups pro-Western factions and Syria’s ally, the Hezbollah militant group — another step that Lebanese hope will move the country past three years of political crisis.

But the attack in Lebanon’s second largest city cast a shadow over political progress.

The bomb, detonated by remote control, went off around 8 a.m. during rush hour just as the bus pulled to the curb to pick up passengers on a main street in Tripoli. It flung shrapnel through the bus and the nearby sidewalk crowded with people headed to work.

The bus — coming from Akkar, a region farther north where many military personnel live — was pockmarked with holes, its windows shattered. Soldiers and bystanders carried away the dozens of wounded on downtown Banks Street, which was littered with glass.

“I jumped out of my car and saw bodies in the streets,” said Nabil Sebaei, owner of the nearby Rivoli theater. “Wherever I saw a body moving, I helped carry them to a car to drive them to the hospital.”

“There is no religion in the world that accepts such acts,” Sebaei said, visibly shaken.

Security officials told The Associated Press that 10 soldiers and eight civilians were killed and 46 people wounded, while a senior military officer said 15 died. The security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak with reporters, said several bodies had been torn to pieces, complicating the count.

The army described the blast as a “terrorist attack directly targeting the army.”

4 BEIJING

Chinese officials call lip-synching girl a simple casting choice

BEIJING — Chinese officials defended their decision to pass off the voice of a 7-year-old songbird as that of another girl at the Olympic opening ceremony, calling it a simple casting choice. Critics said it was a step too far in China’s obsession with the perfect Olympic Games.

Beijing organizers of the games faced tough criticism Wednesday after a whistleblower revealed that the 9-year-old who performed a song during the spectacular opening ceremony was lip-synching to another girl’s vocal track.

Yang Peiyi, a 7-year-old with bright eyes and a smile made crooked by the stubs of her first grown-up teeth, was heard by an audience estimated in the billions during Friday night’s ceremony, singing “Ode to the Motherland.”

But they never saw her face. Organizers passed the song off as being sung by Lin Miaoke, another perky schoolgirl who donned a sparkly red dress and soared on wires above the 91,000-strong crowd at the Bird’s Nest stadium.

Beijing officials on Wednesday defended the decision to use both girls, saying the artistic directors could cast whoever they saw fit. And they were unapologetic about keeping the lip-synch a secret.

“There were a number of candidates to sing that song and at the end of the day the artistic directors picked the best voice and the best performer,” Beijing organizing committee spokesman Sun Weide said.

Wang Wei, executive vice president of the organizing committee, said the job of the ceremony’s directors was “to achieve the most theatrical effect.”

“I don’t see there is anything wrong with it if everybody concerned agrees,” he said.

But the world’s press ridiculed the move on front pages from Romania to Australia.

“The counterfeit Games: designed to look good from every angle,” said a headline in The Times of London. The Daily Telegraph urged organizers of the 2012 London Games to “bring some sanity and proportion back to both the opening ceremony and the games themselves.”

5 CANADA

U.S. Army specialist ordered back to the states after fleeing

TORONTO — A U.S. Army specialist who fled Fort Bragg for Canada after learning his unit was to be deployed to Iraq was ordered deported Wednesday.

Jeremy Hinzman, 29, is likely to be court-martialed when he returns to the United States and could face up to five years in prison. Hinzman said Canada’s Border Services Agency ordered him to leave the country by Sept. 23 and he would be handed over to U.S. authorities.

Before he fled Fort Bragg, N.C., in January 2004, Hinzman had already served a tour of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan. He served in a non-combat position because before his unit left in 2002, he applied for conscientious objector status.

In December 2003, the unit was ordered to Iraq, but he left for Canada with his wife and son shortly thereafter. He had served three years in the Army and was one of the first U.S. deserters from Iraq to seek refugee status in Canada.

He said he refused to participate in what he calls an immoral and illegal war.

“I’m disappointed, but I think that every soldier that has refused to fight in Iraq has done a good thing and I’m not ashamed,” Hinzman told The Associated Press moments after learning of the decision. “I don’t know how political it was. I had a high profile case,” he added.

He said Canada’s Border Services agency said there would not be any undue hardship on him if was deported. An agency spokeswoman Vanessa Barrasa confirmed he was ordered deported.

The Immigration and Refugee Board rejected his claim for refugee status in 2005 and the Federal Court of Appeal held that he would not face any serious punishment if returned to the United States.

Hinzman took his pleas to the Supreme Court of Canada, which also refused to hear the case.

Hinzman enlisted voluntarily and said he joined the army for a variety of reasons, including the college fund, the adventure and the stability. But after joining, he realized he could not bring himself to kill any one.

“I went through all the training. I served honorably in my unit. I used army provisions to try to become a noncombatant and remain in the army as a medic or something, but I still would be subject to going on combat missions as a medic,” Hinzman said.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TASERS

EPD to discuss data on Taser pilot project

The Eugene Police Commission will discuss preliminary data documenting the use of Tasers during the initial six months of the Eugene Police Department's Taser pilot project at its regularly scheduled meeting today at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

According to the data, the EPD documented 16 Taser activations during 10 different incidents.

The EPD also recorded a total of 48 additional incidents where

"verbal warnings and/or the display of a Taser without activation" were used, according to a police release.

The data will not be analyzed until March 2009 after more time has elapsed; a formal report is anticipated at that time, according to the release.

The EDP purchased 40 Tasers for the pilot project beginning in January 2008.

The preliminary data on the use of Tasers over the past six months was released to the Eugene Police Commission on August 8.

—JESSIE HIGGINS

FILM | Event will include some pieces from the library's own collection of movies on film

FROM PAGE 1

many of the reels have spent decades boxed up in dusty attics in an unknown state of disrepair. Often this means that people do not get an opportunity to view these mementos of the past.

You can finally do something about that this Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Knight Library from noon until 4 p.m.

The library is hosting its second bi-annual Home Movie Day, where people can bring their film reel movies to volunteers who will give storage advice, make any necessary repairs and project them on site.

Home Movie Day is an international event, with many cities hosting events around the globe. Eugene and Portland alternate each year, with Eugene's last Home Movie Day being one of the most successful in the nation, according to University

librarian Elizabeth Peterson, who is organizing the event.

Owners of home movies, or just those interested in seeing a glimpse of history, can visit the Media Services wing on the ground floor of the library.

Volunteers will be looking at 8mm, Super 8mm and 16mm films. While the focus is on home movies, Peterson said that the library will also be showing some of the films out of its own collection, such as training videos shot by legendary Oregon track coach Bill Bowerman, as well as a few "quirky surprises."

"Home movies allow us to revisit the past through film," Peterson said. "We are the pioneer diaries that people 100 years from now will want to watch."

Find more information about the event at www.homemovieday.com.

AUTISM

Disruptive behavior spurs discussion

DAVE KOLPACK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FARGO, N.D. — When a 13-year-old Minnesota boy was banned from church after parishioners complained about his behavior, it exposed a painful truth so politically incorrect that some people feel guilty just saying it out loud: Some autistic children can be annoying and disruptive in public.

The case of Adam Race and others like him has laid bare conflicted feelings — among both parents of these children and other people — over autistic youngsters in public places. And it has stirred debate over how much consideration one side owes the other.

In the case of Adam Race, a judge agreed with a priest in Bertha, Minn., who said the 225-pound teenager was disruptive and dangerous, and upheld a restraining order barring him from services. The priest said Adam spit, wet his pants, made loud noises and nearly ran over people while bolting from the church after services.

Carol Race, Adam's mother, said the congregation's claims were exaggerated. But in a letter to the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, JoAnn Brinda of Crystal, Minn., said the Race family should have shown more consideration for others.

"I don't understand why families that have a challenged child who becomes loud and abusive remain at a service where all participants are quiet and contemplative most of the time," Brinda wrote.

Susan Duclos of Peoria,

Ariz., who writes the conservative Wake Up America blog, called the Race story a "horrible situation all around."

"I have known a few people over my lifetime who have had to deal with autism with their children," Duclos said. "It's as frustrating for them as it is for the public."

Similar cases involving people with autism have played out in public recently. A California man was kicked out of a health club for screaming. A North Carolina boy was taken off a plane before takeoff after having a meltdown. A South Carolina girl was ordered out of a restaurant by the town's police chief for crying.

Syndicated radio talk show host Michael Savage added to the furor last month when he charged that doctors and drug companies are overdiagnosing autism, and said, "I'll tell you what autism is: In 99 percent of the cases, it's a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out." Several major companies pulled their advertising from Savage's show.

Lisa Jo Rudy, who is the mother of an autistic child and writes and consults on autism, said Savage's words were "truly nasty and hurtful." At the same time, Rudy said the talk show host has raised awareness of some of the frustrations of parents of autistic children and the wider public, too.

Rudy said there are times when parents should not put their children in situations where they may be disruptive. "Some of these stories really

are the ones where the general public can absolutely identify with the other side of the story," Rudy said.

Jason Goldtrap of Davenport, Fla., said too many people diagnosed with autism are out and about in public because of political correctness. Goldtrap, 40, has two nephews, ages 3 and 21, with autism, and said the older one has become so violent at times that the police have been called.

"I certainly sympathize with all the families who are in this situation," Goldtrap said. "But when we got away from the concept of institutionalization in America, we lost an important element of trying to maintain civility. There is a place for mental institutions."

Goldtrap added: "If it were up to me, he would be in an institution. My brother doesn't agree, and that's his prerogative." He declined to identify his brother, saying, "I don't want to start another argument."

Autism is a disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and can include a host of complications. It varies widely in its severity. Some people are well-behaved; others are prone to outbursts or self-abusive behavior such as biting or head-banging.

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one out of every 150 U.S. children over the age of 8 is autistic or suffers from a related disorder. About 560,000 Americans under 21 are believed to have autism.

Many parents say that their autistic children are largely mis-

understood, that they can't help it when they act up, and that they need interaction with the public.

Barbara Coppo, whose 30-year-old son, Kenny, was banned from a Vallejo, Calif., health club for screaming, said Americans need to learn about living with autistic children.

"Autism may frighten people because so little is known about the disorder," said Coppo, who wrote a book about her son. "The cause has not been scientifically proven and the victims often act in ways society doesn't understand."

However, some parents wonder how much understanding can be gained in grocery stores, churches or other public places.

Nikki Wilmoth-Williams of Rockport, Texas, said certain high-traffic areas are off-limits for her autistic 14-year-old son, Zach.

"I'm an advocate for my child, but we all have to play on the same playground," she said. "It's not about clearing the playground so my child can be on it."

Wilmoth-Williams recalled one day after Sunday school class, when Zach licked several trays full of Oreo cookies set out for students. He was asked to find a different class.

"We're talking 50 to 60 Oreos. He didn't understand the effect it had on the entire class," Wilmoth-Williams said. "I had to make amends. I had to volunteer."

Rudy advises parents of autistic children to arrange forays out in public with care, which may mean five minutes in the grocery store instead of 45 minutes.

ELECTION '08

Smith won't chair McCain's Oregon campaign

The decision may be a move to distance Smith from the GOP

JULIA SILVERMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Ore. — When Arizona Sen. John McCain released the list of his "Oregon Grassroots Leadership Team" Wednesday, one name was conspicuously absent: Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith's.

As the only Republican to hold statewide office in Oregon, and a longtime FOJ - friend of John - Smith might have been expected to lead off that list, particularly after he chaired President Bush's campaigns in Oregon in 2004 and 2000.

Instead, though, as first

reported on The Oregonian's politics blog, former Gov. Vic Atiyeh was formally announced Wednesday as McCain's state chairman.

That left Democrats, particularly Smith's opponent, Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley, speculating that Smith was again trying to distance himself from Republicans as he tries to retain his seat in a race that's ranked as one of the country's most competitive.

Just last week, Smith announced that he's skipping the GOP convention in Minneapolis, in favor of campaigning at home.

And in recent campaign commercials, he's highlighted his legislative ties to Democratic presidential candidate Barack

Obama, and former Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry - not his relationship with McCain.

Smith and his campaign advisers are well aware of the latest Oregon voter registration totals: 879,151 registered Democrats to just 671,766 Republicans, a gap that's been widening in recent months.

"Senator Smith is willing to throw his good friend John McCain under the bus to win re-election," Merkley said in a news release.

Spokespeople for Smith and McCain dismissed that as political spin.

"(Sen. Smith) is a staunch, longtime supporter of Senator McCain and his candidacy," said Lindsay Gilbride, a spokeswom-

an for Smith. "But this year, Senator Smith will remain focused on his own re-election battle."

Rick Gorka, a spokesman for McCain, pointed out that Smith is still listed as a member of McCain's national campaign committee, a group of informal advisers. Smith was an early supporter of McCain's, and stuck by him even when McCain's presidential hopes looked all but dead.

As the state chairman, Atiyeh will be expected to attend events and do surrogate work on behalf of McCain, Gorka said, work for which Smith won't have much time.

As to whether Smith would appear with McCain in Oregon before Election day, Gilbride said, "It's possible, sure."



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POPULATION

White Americans no longer majority by 2042

WASHINGTON — White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2042, according to new government projections. That's eight years sooner than previous estimates, made in 2004.

The nation has been growing more diverse for decades, but the process has sped up through immigration and higher birth rates among minority residents, especially Hispanics.

It is also growing older.

"The white population is older and very much centered around the aging baby boomers who are well past their high fertility years," said William Frey, a demographer at the

Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "The future of America is epitomized by the young people today. They are basically the melting pot we are going to see in the future."

The Census Bureau Thursday released population projections through 2050, based on rates for births, deaths and immigration. They are subject to big revisions, depending on immigration policy, cultural changes and natural or manmade disasters.

The U.S. has nearly 305 million people today. The population is projected to hit 400 million in 2039 and 439 million in 2050.

That's like adding all the people from France and Britain, said Steve A. Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration

Studies, a Washington group that advocates tighter immigration policies.

White non-Hispanics make up about two-thirds of the population, but only 55 percent of those younger than 5.

By 2050, whites will make up 46 percent of the population and blacks will make up 15 percent, a relatively small increase from today. Hispanics, who make up about 15 percent of the population today, will account for 30 percent in 2050, according to the new projections.

Asians, which make up about 5 percent of the population, are projected to increase to 9 percent by 2050.

The population 85 and older is projected to more than triple by 2050, to 19 million.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home Movie Day!

Share your home movies with other amateur film lovers!

Saturday, August 16, Noon-4 p.m.
UO Knight Library, Ground Floor
1501 Kincaid Street, Eugene



Bring your 8mm, Super 8mm, and 16mm film to Home Movie Day.

We'll assess its condition, give you tips on preserving it, and provide projectors for showing your movies.

<http://library.uoregon.edu/partners/homemovieday>

Sponsored by the UO Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives.



COURTESY OF EDWARD OLIVOS

Students from a class that recently took a trip to the U.S.-Mexico border met to discuss their experiences. The class, created by professor Edward Olivos, worked with a local non-profit group while on the trip.

IMMIGRATION | 'Honestly, this class did change my life,' Maggie Gonzalez says

FROM PAGE 1

from a variety of backgrounds and occupations. Some — like Rodriguez, a family and human services major — come from immigrant families, while others were experiencing the issue for the first time.

"I don't know what to say still," said Brooke Fischer, a Woodburn native and pre-education major. "This class is everything I should have already learned (after growing up in a town with such a large immigrant population)."

During their week at the border, students alternated between fieldwork with the non-profit organization Border Angels and seminars at St. Rose of Lima Parish. Olivos said the students spent the first day meeting with immigrant men who live in the canyons near San Diego trying to find work whenever and however they can.

The class arrived in several large vans to talk to the men where they gathered to look for work, and this led the men to believe that the students had come to offer them a job for the day.

"Getting off that van was so hard for me," said Juliana Guzman, whose parents migrated to the country. "These men were like my uncles, and I didn't want to be disrespectful to them."

Many of these men will only find work a few days out of the week and struggle to provide for their families, Guzman said. Other students were also moved by the visit.

"One of the men said to me, 'God doesn't punish. These are just challenges that we have to overcome,'" said Cynthia Medina, a graduate student in counseling and psychology. "That was an emotional part of the trip."

Medina said she migrated to the U.S. as a child with her mother and had a green card for several years before becoming a U.S. citizen in high school.

The class also headed into the Mexican desert for a day to fill water stations maintained by Border Angels, which devotes itself to minimizing unnecessary immigrant deaths along the

border, according to its website.

During the expedition, the temperature reached 107 degrees, a far cry from the 130 degrees the area has been known for, said Enrique Morones, founder of Border Angels.

"The desert was really demanding," Medina said. "And all I could think about was how strong those men are I had talked to the day before, crossing for three days and three nights with no food or water."

Many of the students were sobered by the expedition.

"A lot of people mix up the politics of immigration with the human aspect," said Alison Ecker, an ethnic studies major. "The fact that there are groups that vandalize the water stations — to deny someone something as basic as water is just cruel."

The students also spent a day working with refugees in Tijuana, Olivos said, and went to view the U.S.-Mexico border fence.

"I want students to see what the fence really looks like, and what the other side of Tijuana looks like ... (And) to get to feel what it is like to cross in these

66 A lot of people mix up the politics of immigration with the human aspect. The fact that there are groups that vandalize the water stations — to deny someone something as basic as water is just cruel."

ALISON ECKER
ETHNIC STUDIES
MAJOR

conditions," Morones said before the students arrived.

The class attended various seminars during the evenings at a local Catholic church. Olivos said the Church, which has faced a great deal of criticism in the United States for supporting immigrants' rights, gave several presentations to students about the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform. The campaign hopes to bring more benefits to immigrants and

potential immigrants, according to its website.

Olivos said the class is primarily designed to give the students enough background and first-hand knowledge on immigration to continue working in the field, or at least leave with a better understanding of it. Many students said that the class has motivated them to continue working in the field.

"Honestly, this class did change my life," said Maggie Gonzalez, a graduate student studying communication disorders and science. "I don't think I've ever felt this strongly about (anything) in my life."

In addition to the fieldwork, the students spent roughly a week in class studying immigration globally, especially the changes seen since the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed.

"The class is about understanding immigration under the context of the global economy," Olivos said, "not as a human choice that people suddenly woke up one day and decided to migrate, but as a necessity. The U.S. is not the only place getting immigrants."

Olivos said the class will become a permanent fixture in the College of Education curriculum next year, but he does not know if or when it will head to the border again, though some of the students feel very strongly that the trip to the border should continue.

"This is an experience we will never forget and I will never forget," a tear-choked Medina said. She added that she hoped that Olivos can find funding to take the class to the border again because it is such an important part of the class.

The class was able to take the summer trip this year because of a grant provided by the Wayne Morris Center for Law and Politics, which provided the students with a travel stipend to help cover some of the expenses at the border.

"This class is something that the school can actually pride itself on," Guzman said. "Classes like this actually impact people."

JESSIE HIGGINS
JHIGGINS@DAILYEMERALD.COM

TRANSPORTATION

Fewer Americans hit the road in June than last year

Americans drove 12.2 billion fewer miles than June 2007

JOAN LOWY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The summer vacation season began this year with Americans behind the wheel less. In all, we drove 12.2 billion fewer miles in June than a year earlier, the biggest monthly decrease in a downward trend that began in November.

That decrease, reported by the Federal Highway Administration, coincided with the national average price for unleaded gasoline hitting \$4 a gallon for the first time on June 8. It peaked in mid-July at \$4.11 and was down to \$3.78 on Wednesday, according to AAA.

"Clearly, more Americans chose to stay close to home in June than in previous years," Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said Wednesday.

Overall, Americans drove 53.2 billion fewer miles from November through June than they did over the same eight-month period a year earlier, according to the highway agency's latest monthly report on driving. That's a larger decline than the 49.3 billion fewer miles driven by Americans over the entire decade of the 1970s, a period marked by oil embargoes and gas lines, the agency said.

Travel Industry Association spokeswoman Cathy Keefe

said the June driving decline "is not surprising, given the environment that we were in." But she predicted the recent drop in gas prices to below \$4 a gallon in many parts of the country will have travelers on the road again.

"I think people have started to take the increase in gas prices somewhat more in stride," Keefe said. The trade association is anticipating only a 1.2 percent decline in all forms of business and leisure travel this year.

Some of the biggest declines in June, compared with a year ago, were in such popular vacation states as Maine, down 7 percent, and Florida, down 6 percent. Western states with wide-open spaces were also part of the trend — down 7.7 percent in Idaho, 6.9 percent in Utah, 6.8 percent in Washington, 6.7 percent in Nevada, 6.2 percent in Kansas and 6.1 percent in Alaska.

The June driving data, collected by more than 4,000 automatic traffic recorders operated around-the-clock by state highway agencies, were supported by an AARP telephone survey of people age 50 and over in which 67 percent said they have cut back on their driving because of high gas prices.

Four in 10 said they have used public transportation, and walked or ridden a bicycle more frequently since gas prices have risen, according to the AARP poll, which was being

released Wednesday.

Elinor Ginzler, AARP's senior vice president for livable communities, said she's concerned that communities don't have adequate sidewalks, bus shelters, bike lanes and public transportation options as more people look for other means to get around.

"More Americans age 50-plus are trying to leave their cars behind but face obstacles as soon as they walk out the door, climb on their bikes or head for the bus," Ginzler said.

AARP polled 1,006 people nationally between July 9 and July 15. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Gas consumption was down, too. The highway administration said motorists consumed 400 million fewer gallons of gasoline and 318 million fewer gallons of diesel in the first quarter of 2008 than in the same period in 2007.

Rocky Twyman — a choir director from Rockville, Md., who has traveled to gas stations across the country leading prayers for cheaper gasoline — held a victory celebration Wednesday at a Washington Shell station to thank God for lowering prices.

"So many people are being hurt by these high gas prices and it just caught America by surprise, they just weren't ready for these adjustments that need to be made," Twyman said.

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ALEX GABRIEL | FREELANCE WRITER

Joe Strummer, one of
punk rock's most
influential artists,
will be remembered
Saturday

Three decades ago, on the verge of the release of the seminal "London Calling," The Clash was called "the only band that mattered." Fusing a worldly consciousness with sharp, tongue-in-cheek political satire and an unparalleled ability to compose songs no matter the genre, The Clash gave punk rock its spirited and righteous sensibilities before completely blowing the entire genre out of the water. The Clash's albums, from the grit of the garage to the profoundness of

TURN TO ICON | PAGE 6



ES S P P

EDITOR • TIFFANY REAGAN • TREAGAN@DAILYEMERALD.COM • (541) 365-5511

6

Tropic Thunder

Ben Stiller returns to the director's chair with his war film turned jungle comedy "Tropic Thunder." It's filled with gore, big laughs and a lot of action.

Pulse Pick

Saginaw Vineyards will host relaxing music at Friday Night Live tomorrow. Guests are invited to pack a picnic dinner and enjoy the harmonious music of Jackie Jae & Jason Coswill from 6 to 9 p.m.

ICON | Strummer will be remembered by ZZ Clash, Casey Neill and The Underlings

FROM PAGE 5

roots rock and roll, constantly pushed the envelope of what music could be and have since gone on to become timeless staples.

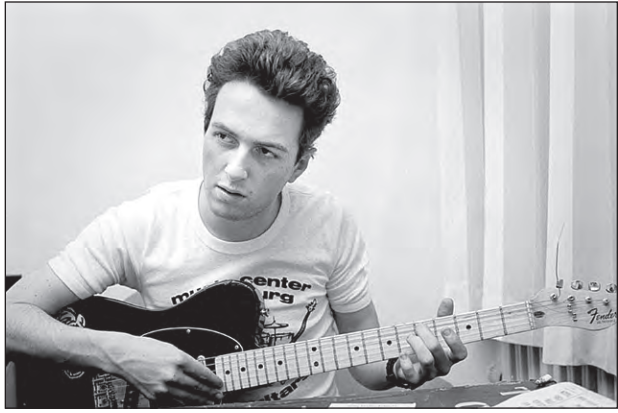
At the forefront was Joe Strummer, a son of a foreign diplomat and a pioneering father of punk rock. His fascination with the world's music — from calypso to funk to rockabilly to dub, rap and techno — and concern with the dynamics of class, race and national relations transcended him above his nihilistic punk rock peers and into a stratosphere only occupied by such cultural icons as Bob Dylan and Bob Marley.

Though it has been six years since his untimely death, his music and his spirit are alive and well and will be on display at the WOW Hall on Saturday with a night of tribute from some of Eugene's most revered rock 'n' roll musicians.

The night's lineup will cover nearly all of the eras of Strummer's vast catalogue and array of stylings. The show kicks off in the same way that Strummer's career did: with bluesy garage rock. Eugene's The Underlings play their own take on northwest garage in the same vein as the wild and wooly Sonics, Dead Moon, and the Wipers. The band will play a couple tunes by Strummer's pub rock act The 101ers as well as cuts off the Clash's first release, including "White Riot."

Next up is multifaceted musician and songwriter Casey Neill, who will take on the daunting task of performing some of Strummer's later and more eclectic work with the Mescaleros, including the rollicking acoustic piece "Mega Bottle Ride."

ZZ Clash will end the night with songs from the "London Calling" era and abound. Formed exclusively for Saturday's tribute, ZZ Clash is a Eugene super group featuring a who's who of players including front man Dan Jones from Dan Jones and the Squids, guitarists Jake Pavlak from Yeltsin and Scott K. from



COURTESY OF THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN
A tribute to Joe Strummer happens Saturday, Aug. 16, at the WOW Hall.

Pass Out Kings, and bassist Dan Schmid from the Cherry Poppin' Daddies. Drummer Jivan Valpey of just about every band already listed fills out the lineup that will play such standards as "Tommy Gun," "Police on My Back," and "London Calling."

AN EVENING OF TRIBUTE TO JOE STRUMMER

- **What:** A literal "who's who" in Eugene rock comes together to pay homage to the late punk rock god
- **When:** 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16
- **Where:** The WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave.
- **Cost:** \$10 at the door
- **More:** A raffle will be held to give away a replica Joe Strummer Telecaster. Visit www.wowhall.org for more information.

Every penny of the night's proceeds will go toward the Strummerville Foundation for New Music, and the Skaters for Eugene Skateparks' mission to build a flagship park under the Washington-Jefferson Street Bridge. Eric Sutton of Tactics Boardshop, a long-time Clash

fan and skateboarding advocate, has sponsored the event and rented the hall in order to make the Strummer Tribute a reality.

"I've always been a huge Clash fan and I wanted to do this Strummer tribute show, but I couldn't think to do it for profit. As the punk rock ethos go, I wanted to do it for someone else," Sutton said. "Strummer's positivity and the ethics he lived by are a huge part of why I'm doing this."

The proposed skate park would be Eugene's biggest and only undercover skatepark. It would not only benefit the skating community, but the entire city of Eugene as well. The challenging terrains and the variety of ramps and obstacles would appeal to skateboarders of all ages, causing a potential resurgence to the park and its neighboring areas. Local restaurants and businesses in the Whiteaker neighborhood could expect to see increases in business as a result of the park's development.

"I'm an advocate for youth," said Sutton, "Making a skate park in the middle of Eugene would benefit all of the kids who may not be able to make it out to the suburban parks."

Skaters for Eugene Skatepark have set a goal of reaching \$200,000 by December of 2009 in order to launch this lofty and ambitious venture that would add to the character of the city.



COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS
"Tropic Thunder" stars Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr. and Jack Black and includes an endless list of celebrity cameos including Tyra Banks, Tom Cruise, Nick Nolte, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Jon Voight, Lance Bass and Alicia Silverstone.

Ben Stiller heads back to the director's chair with 'Tropic'

'Tropic Thunder' has it all: big action, big laughs and big stars

COLLIN SHERWOOD ELWYN
FREELANCE WRITER

No one in Hollywood seems to be suffering more at the hands of the Apatow factory than Ben Stiller. The likes of Will Ferrell, Steve Carell and Seth Rogen have reinvented the comedy industry, a fact that Stiller was rudely awakened to in 2007 when his "The Heartbreak Kid" remake flopped. In order to return to his winning ways, Stiller is doing something that he hasn't done since 2001's "Zoolander": directing his own movie.

"Tropic Thunder," Stiller's return to the director's chair, is the story of three major film stars and the Vietnam War movie that they set out to make. The trinity of actors is headlined by Tugg Speedman (Stiller), an action movie star whose career is quickly spiraling downward. Joining him are Jeff Portnoy (Jack Black), a comedian who makes Adam Sandler look like Socrates, and Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr.), a five-time Oscar winner fresh off a controversial procedure designed to darken the pigment of his skin so that he can play the squad's African-American lieutenant.

The combination of the trio's prima donna character traits, the film's absurdly large budget, and the inept helming of first-time director Damien Cockburn (Steve Coogan), leads people close to the film's production to call it a disaster after only five days of filming.

Fearing for the quality of the film version of his story, author of the fact-based source material "Four Leaf" Tayback (Nick Nolte), urges Cockburn to fly his stars to a dangerous part of the jungle. Unfortunately for them, the danger turns out to be real, as the director and his stars find themselves unwittingly encroaching on the territory of some particularly violent drug manufacturers, eventually creating a war of their own.

As "Tropic Thunder" is at least in some ways a movie about movies, the references to silly war movie clichés and direct allusions to classics of the genre seem almost innumerable, ranging from "Apocalypse Now" to "Platoon." Also near uncountable is the number of celebrity cameos, a dangerous play for any movie that takes itself even a little bit seriously. Thankfully, "Tropic Thunder" does not.

Much like "Pineapple Express," "Tropic Thunder" is a comedy that doesn't pull punches on the action front. In fact, a tremendous amount of the film's enjoyment depends on the viewer's ability to find excessive gore funny and ironic. In the theme of its blood-spurting jests, the movie is at its best when it is at its most tasteless.

A subplot involving Speedman's last performance, a mentally retarded man in the feature "Simple Jack," pulls some of the movie's biggest laughs, as well as a slew of criticism from representatives of the disabled community. The same can be said for Downey Jr.'s portrayal of a late '60s African American: It has already offended some, it's sure to offend more, and it

★★★★★

"TROPIC THUNDER"

- **What:** Ben Stiller's comedic take on a war film
- **Who:** Starring Stiller, Robert Downey Jr. and Jack Black; directed by Stiller
- **Where:** Now showing at Regal Valley River Center Stadium 15 and Cinemark 17
- **More:** Visit www.tropicthunder.com for more information about the film

will cause more still to become delirious with laughter.

However, as fun as the film can be for parts of its runtime, it experiences major setbacks whenever it nears anything conventional. The film suffers from a surprising lack of quotable material, which is a make-or-break deal for a summer comedy. And while the action can occasionally be humorous, it mostly serves as another reminder of what makes the comedic value of Edgar Wright's action scenes so special: Making people laugh at explosions and gunfire for more than a few minutes is really hard to do. "Tropic Thunder" is a pleasant enough diversion, and not a bad way to pass a couple of hours, but it's nothing that you will remember in a month's time, and not nearly enough to launch Stiller back to comedy superstardom. Chances are he still has it in him; this just isn't it.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 14). This year you are expecting good things to happen -- and they really do! You're coming into your own as a professional. There's an explosion of activity on the work front over the next seven weeks. A mentor or inspiring love helps you find yourself in new ways in November -- and you didn't even know you were lost! Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 15, 43 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your solo projects get a push. Supportive people offer to help you, which could come as a surprise. You've been doing so well on your own that you're not even sure how to accept the aid you're given.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A water-sign friend (Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces) is so dialed into you that he or she seems able to read your mind. To this person, even in your quiet contemplation you are living out loud.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're bold. You're inclined to approach that unapproachable someone. Your efforts to extend yourself in a bigger and more confident way have immediate benefits.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Tonight, get outside and look at the moon, your guiding luminary. That loveable glowing orbiter acts as a point of concentration that centers you. The mental chatter goes away. Ah, sweet clarity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your social swirl is an easy equation to figure out. All you need are three things to stay happily in the mix: You need time alone, time with loved ones and time with people you don't know at all. Make it happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Travel is favored, and it doesn't have to be far in order for you to get the full effect, either. Get out and do something different and you'll be glad to return to your familiar people and activities tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're already a visually oriented person, but today your aesthetic sense is even more honed than usual. You know what you like and what you don't, and will enjoy being in a position to make your environment more beautiful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The work that follows a formula isn't as fun for you now as the unexpected, complicated and challenging jobs that come along. The same goes for your fun. It's no accident that you choose to play with a difficult person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You think you're being observant, but conclusions are difficult to draw. Nothing is adding up. The truth of the matter may be quite opposite to how it appears. Give this puzzle a little more time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Family dynamics are changing due to your positive influence. It's not always easy for you to stay on the bright side, but it's important. Life rewards you fully every time you do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The rules for the airport and the rules for life are the same: Don't pick up any baggage that doesn't belong for you. At best, doing so is an awkward mistake and at worst, it's downright dangerous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you're slightly uncomfortable in a new role, chalk it up to growing pains. Pat yourself on the back for being willing to expand your awareness and influence. You're going to be ready for the big opportunities on the horizon.

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9 Yellow shade	41 Pawn	65 French seas
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17 In front of a hydrant, say	46 1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks	Down
20 Notice for late ticket-buyers, maybe	47 Part of m.p.g.	1 "Taste that beats the others cold" sloganeer, once
21 "Waking _____ Devine" (1998 film)	48 Aurora's Greek counterpart	2 Morning waker-upper
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		40 Lake _____, outlet of the Maumee River
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		44 Father
		47 Father, e.g.
		50 Stab
		51 Forty-_____
		52 Un galo grande
		53 Girlish boy
		54 Hard on the eyes
		57 _____ Lobos
		58 TV's Longoria
		59 Kook
		60 Opposite of "naw"
		61 Wall St. hire
		62 Little troublemaker

Puzzle by Peter A. Collins

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RA = Requires Assembly.
All textiles shown are imported.

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