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Photo by Nick Lacy



Photo by Trish Weisman

Model airplane dogfights (left), Harrisburg's old-fashioned parade (above) and more traditional fireworks highlighted the Eugene area's celebration of America's 197th birthday.

## *Eugene celebrates a birthday for Michael and America*

There are lots of ways to spend the Fourth of July. But Michael, who is 11 today, thinks he has found the best way to celebrate the Fourth and his birthday.

Michael lives out near Dexter Lake. He, his parents and his sister came to Autzen Stadium to watch the fireworks on the night of the Fourth of July. They got there in the afternoon, "even before the gates were supposed to open."

The Eugene Prop Spinners put on a show of aerial acrobatics starting at 6:30 p.m. Michael liked the dogfights the best, where one plane chased another and tried to cut its ribbon streamers off.

"I'm going to root for the silver one . . . no the black one . . . maybe I'll wait and see which one's ahead before I choose."

In between the airplane demonstrations, a 30-piece band from the American Federation of Musicians Union, Local 689, played a variety of marches and "Fourth-of-July" music. Michael liked the band, since he plays clarinet in his grade school band. But he drew the line at the performers from the musical "West Side Story."

"I don't like that kind of music. It's icky. I hate 'West Side Story.'" But after the first number he changed his mind. "I didn't know it was that kind of music."

The Eugene Active 20-30 Club started shooting off \$2000 worth of fireworks when it got dark. Michael kept up a running stream of comments.

"Ooo look at that one . . . I like that one . . . no I like that one best . . . That one looks like a Christmas tree . . . that one looks like ice cream . . . Oooo! That one lit up the whole stadium!"

The fireworks went up accompanied by sounds like muted cannons. "I feel like I'm being shot . . . Oh, they got me, I'm going fast. That one scared me."

Part of the fireworks included two set pieces—one of the American flag, and one of Snoopy on top of his dog house.

"Look at that flag. It's falling apart now. That's a symbol of war . . . we're losing our country."

Another cannon blast. "Wow, that one blew the daylight out of me. Here comes another one, plug your ears . . . ready, plug!"

Another one came, and another. Michael finally decided he liked the fireworks best that spread across the sky above the stadium like molten rain.

He said he'd had a great Fourth of July. And the 20,000 people who packed half of Autzen Stadium to watch the show seemed to agree with him.

Now it's the University Bookstore

## *University Co-op changes name, rules and book prices*

Co-operative bookstores are on the wane, according to Gerald Henson, manager of the University of Oregon Bookstore, Inc., and on July 1 the University Co-op gave in to the trend by changing its rules along with its name.

"For the past 53 years it's been operating as the Co-op, but on July 1 we became the University Bookstore," Henson said. "The change was voted on last spring by Co-op members and was approved five to one."

"The change came about because the board of directors felt there were too many inequities in the co-operative system. The rebates given to members were low due to inflation and high taxes.

"Only one third of the student body joined the Co-op," said Henson, "but under regulations of the Bureau of Internal Revenue profits made from non-members couldn't be distributed among members. Money accumulated, and the board didn't know how to dispose of it."

"As the University of Oregon Bookstore, Inc., we intend to reduce the price of textbooks by around 10 per cent. We'd like to discount everything, but the book price reduction alone will wipe out most of the profits."

Henson remarked that the past five years have posed some trying times and bookstores have

been forced to operate on less, while the profit margin on texts remains the same.

"The average life of a textbook is short, about a year or so," he said. "New editions are constantly appearing and at a liberal arts school such as the University, texts become obsolete quickly. The bookstore can buy back very few used books, making it hard on both students and the store."

"Many students tend to look at books as a rip-off. Texts are expensive," Henson admitted, "but what the student spends on books—which play such an important role in his education—is just a fraction compared to the total cost of his schooling."