

# Mayfest '85 begins today

Mayfest '85, a week-long spring celebration featuring a street faire, musical entertainment, art and fashion shows and outdoor recreation begins today and continues through Sunday.

Organized by the Student University Relations Council, the week will include Parents' Weekend, an awards luncheon, an annual Canoe Fete and an open forum with President Paul Olum. Mayfest also incorporates events planned for Black Arts Week, Greek Week and the 15th annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival.

The following events are scheduled for this week:

• **Today** — Opening ceremonies will begin at noon with the Green Garter Band and remarks by Cassie Smith, SURC president, in the EMU Courtyard. All University students also are invited to compete in a tricycle race down 13th Avenue and a water balloon toss following the speech.

• **Tuesday** — Black Student Union Art Exhibit, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Room 167 EMU. Campus

Ice Cream Social, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Gerlinger Hall Alumni Lounge.

• **Wednesday** — ASUO Street Faire opens, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 13th Avenue between University and Kincaid streets. Music from Willy Dee will highlight the noon gig, sponsored by the Cultural Forum, noon to 1 p.m., EMU Courtyard. The Student Showcase will display Club Sports' karate at 1 p.m. in the EMU Courtyard. Also at 1 p.m., Recreational Intramurals will sponsor a frisbee golf tournament. Finally, a mime workshop with Hayward Coleman, will be held at 4:30 p.m. in Villard Hall, sponsored by the BSU.

• **Thursday** — The Street Faire and the BSU Art Show will continue. The Noon Gig will feature the Ben Ferrell piano duet. Student Showcases will feature the Univeristy Song and Dance Troupe at 1 p.m., and Tae Kwon Do at 1:30 in the EMU Courtyard. A mime show with Coleman starts at 7 p.m. at Condon School gym.

• **Friday** — Street Faire continues. An outdoor beer gardens will feature live music from the LeRoI Brothers from Austin, Texas and Watermelon Slim. Music and mocktails, a non-alcoholic alternative to the beer gardens, will be sponsored by the residence halls, 5-8 p.m. in the EMU Skylight Refectory. The 15th Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival opens, 8-10 p.m., EMU East Lawn. A fashion show, sponsored by BSU, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Lounge.

• **Saturday** — Folk Festival continues, noon to 10 p.m. An outdoor "Gospel, Jazz and Funk Festival," sponsored by the BSU will begin at 5 p.m. in the EMU Courtyard. The annual Canoe Fete, a parade of floats on the Mill Race along Franklin Boulevard, will start at 2 p.m. and the Mystery Duck and winning floats will be announced.

• **Sunday** — Folk Festival continues, noon to 10 p.m. The Robert Cray Band will play at 8 p.m., EMU East Lawn.

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## Jazz 'melody band' to play

By Kevin Frank  
Of the Emerald

Excellence is hard to come by in any endeavor. To achieve it within the realm of jazz, where virtuosity is almost commonplace, a group or an individual must be truly outstanding. Eugene will get a taste of that excellence when Red Rodney and Ira Sullivan perform at the Hult Center Tuesday at 8 p.m.

The Red Rodney/Ira Sullivan Quintet, or the Red Sullivan show (as they are sometimes called), demands the use of superlatives. What have they done? The list might be shorter if the question were "what haven't they done?"

In 1949, trumpeter/flugel hornist Rodney replaced Miles Davis in Charlie Parker's outfit and stayed for the following three years. As Red tells it, "I wasn't intimidated by Miles having been there. I was intimidated by standing next to Charlie Parker, and I never got over that."

"My first night there, Miles, Dizzy Gillespie and Fats Navarro were sitting in the audience, and it scared me half to death. I was very uptight and they loved what I played, but I didn't. It's taken me all of these years to be able to say 'I played good that night.'"

Now 57, Rodney's cherubic face and gentle, friendly manner belie his colorful past. Between the early '50s and the mid 60s, he became addicted to drugs, served time in prison and had his teeth knocked out by two policemen. He drifted through the purgatory of various Las Vegas and television bands until suffering a stroke in 1972.

In contrast, Ira Sullivan, who has the blunt good looks and convincing directness of a gangster, is a devout Christian. A consummate artist, he plays a stunning array of musical instruments including trumpet, flugel horn, a variety of the saxophones and all flutes.

At age 54, he's played with a number of jazz legends, including Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker and Art Blakey. He also taught jazz at the University of Miami (where Pat Metheny was one of his students).

By choosing to spend most of his life in the musical backwaters of Chicago and Miami, rather than urban jazz centers like New York or Los Angeles, Sullivan has acquired underground celebrity status while avoiding general recognition. In fact, over the last 25 years he's appeared almost perennially in Downbeat Magazine's critics' polls as "Talent Deserving Wider Recognition."

Ira chuckles, "I like that category. It's like not losing your amateur standing, no matter how big you get."

Rodney and Sullivan recorded in the mid '50s and went their separate ways until a chance meeting reunited them in 1980. They recruited pianist/composer Garry Dial, bassist Jay Anderson and drummer Joey Baron to round out the combo, and they've been moving up ever since.

And the public is beginning to take notice. All five of them placed in the Downbeat 1984 readers' poll, with Sullivan, Rodney and Dial appearing in multiple categories.

"We're a melody band," says Rodney, "and we're melody players, and we have a wide variety of music. The greatest reward is what we're putting into this — the music. It certainly isn't the money."

Tickets are \$6, \$8.50 and \$10 and are available at all Hult Center ticket outlets.

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