

# Student takes initiative to publish works of poetry, prose and art

By Sarah Kitchen

Of the Emerald

What started as a personal endeavour for one University student has turned out to be more rewarding than he had originally expected.

When Eric Lake, a 20-year-old elementary education major, decided to turn his poetry and art work into a published book, his main goal was to prove to

a person really can decide are the relatively minor events in a person's every day life.

In the book Lake makes this point by writing that a person can choose whether to eat Crunch Berries or Fruity Pebbles for breakfast; but he or she does not have much choice concerning aging and death.

Lake spent six months organizing and producing

ship with these groups. I do not rely on them, because if you rely on other people they will let you down," he said.

Another thing Lake learned during the six months working on 'Tangent' is how to take negative criticism and constructive criticism.

The negative comments Lake received from critics usually led him to withdraw from those people. "I would have to politely say goodbye and not have the comments effect me." At the same time Lake ended up surrounding himself with the people who had constructive comments to make about his work, he said.

The completion of 'Tangent' has encouraged Lake to pursue other works. This summer he plans to open an art gallery in his home where he will display and sell his own work. Plans for another book are also underway, he said.

"'Tangent' is a stepping stone that has given me confidence that I can do much greater things in the future."

Lake will be at a table outside the bookstore selling copies of 'Tangent' on Thursday.

**'I told myself that if I didn't sell any books I would not be concerned and at least I would have Christmas presents for all my relatives for the next 20 years.'**

— Eric Lake

himself that he could meet the challenge, he said.

"My motivation was purely individual, and I was not concerned about the profits, the book was just for fun and exposure," he said.

"I told myself that if I didn't sell any books I would not be concerned and at least I would have Christmas presents for all my relatives for the next 20 years."

He is now not only receiving inquiries from people as to where they can get 'Tangent,' but also "encouraging" comments from the people who have read it. Last week the University bookstore agreed to put 20 copies of the book to place on its shelves.

For a person to get the full meaning of 'Tangent,' they must first read it cover to cover, Lake explained.

The book's introduction sets the theme — that being Lake's basic philosophy at the time of the writings. "I simply tell people the book is about tangency and that it relates to my perceptions and thoughts at the time I wrote it."

"The book is sort of an outpouring of my confusion or frustration with dealing with life," Lake said.

Events and circumstances that have occurred in Lake's life also contributed to the subject matter of many of his works. Some of the more influential events include the death of his father three years ago, moving to Oregon from New England, moving to the University from the University of Southern California and falling in love and breaking up more than two years later, Lake said.

One entry in the book titled 'An Essay On Choices' reflects Lake's observations about the events that shape his life. A person has no control over the events that "mold" him or her, Lake said. And the only choices



Eric Lake

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