



THOMAS BERGSTROM for the Emerald

Deadheads were in a dancing mood when the Grateful Dead came to town.

## Deadheads make Eugene home

By Lia Saliccia  
Oregon Daily Emerald



They came on a Friday, in a span of about two hours; their multitudes of Volkswagen buses darkening the horizon. They came with their kids, their dogs, their wares that are their livelihood. They came to buy things, sell things, trade things and see things.

They are the Deadheads, and on the weekend of Aug. 21 and 22, they came to make Eugene their home.

Deadheads are somewhat of a novelty. Their whole existence is based upon the touring of the Grateful Dead, whom they will follow to the ends of the earth, bringing their portable camping ground

and barter fair with them.

Their typically dreadlocked, tie-dyed appearances may be deceiving, however, and that guy in the skirt whom you thought for sure lived in a smelly old van, making his living selling smudge sticks could be a lawyer who will hop into his BMW and drive off after the show.

Since the music is hardly what people come to see anymore (I used to be a fan myself, but have long since lost the innocent exuberance I took with me to the 30 or more concerts I've seen) I thought it would be fun to try to capture here the essence of the Dead scene, what some would call a traveling freak show, and others would call home. For as identical as each one may seem to the outsider, each one has a different story to tell.

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