

Festival to include dance, drums

By Meg Dedolph
Oregon Daily Emerald

In Japan, the obon season, from about mid-July to mid-August, is when dead ancestors are honored with visits to family cemeteries, dancing and taiko drumming.

"It's a time when priests go out to the cemetery with families and say prayers for parents, friends and grandparents. It culminates with an obon festival," said Misa Joo, one of the organizers for Eugene's fifth annual Japanese Obon Festival.

But, for Japanese communities and their neighbors, obon festivals in the United States have taken on a slightly different meaning.

"It's now becoming a folkdancing festival," said organizer Ken Nagao. "It's done as a fair and as something to bring the community together."

Joo said the festivals were becoming a place where the Japanese-American community could share their dance, music and songs with their friends and neighbors.

Eugene's festival, scheduled for Saturday, July 30, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., at Alton Baker Park, will include taiko drumming by two groups; Eugene Taiko and Waka Daiko, Eugene's children's taiko ensemble, as well as a performance by Akitada Yamashita of Japan's Gion Daiko drum ensemble.

Yamashita, who has been declared an art treasure in Japan, will be performing with Eric Mah, a Eugene resident who studied with him and his en-

semble.

Taiko drummers perform on large barrel-shaped drums and add choreographed movements to the rhythms and songs, which include etudes, or technical studies, and musical portrayals of legends or folktales.

Both Joo and Nagao said the dances were easy to learn, since they were circle dances, and they encouraged audience members to join in.

"They're real simple dances, and they're kind of fun to do," Nagao said.

"We dance these dances in honor and memory of family and friends who helped us along the way and then passed on," Joo said.

While in Japan, each town might have a specific dance for obon festivals, Joo said in the United States, obon dances came from all over, not just one specific town in Japan.

"In the United States, we have many different dances because Japanese Americans are from all over," she said. "They commemorate the work our grandparents did when they came here, like fishing or mining, they celebrate natural beauty, and there are songs dedicated to children."

In addition to the dancing and drumming, Nagao said there would be food booths, and a mikoshi, or Japanese parade carriage. The University's Japanese Student Organization will be helping children construct the carriage starting at 4:30, before the festival begins.

Stones' new album gets back to basics

By Chris Metz
Oregon Daily Emerald

With their latest release, *Voodoo Lounge*, the Rolling Stones once again prove that there is sufficient reason for the aging rockers to continue making albums.

Unlike their last two studio albums, *Dirty Work* and *Steel Wheels*, *Voodoo Lounge* gets back to the basics that made the Stones the greatest rock 'n' roll band around.

Voodoo Lounge is to the 1990s Rolling Stones what *Exile on Main Street* and *Some Girls* were to the 1970s Stones.

The Stones never really found their sound in the 1980s. *Tattoo You* came out in the early part of the decade, but was a product of the classic rhythms that the Stones made their own on their late 1970s releases.

On *Voodoo Lounge*, the Mick Jagger and Keith Richards songwriting team once again lead the listener through the trials and tribulations of the dread relationship.

This should come as no surprise. After all, when you're 50-year-old rock stars, the one thing you probably know best (or worst), besides Remo drumheads and Fender guitars, is relationships.

From Jagger's declaration of youth on "Sparks Will Fly" (You'd better grease up/ I'm coming back), to Richards' "The Worst", a characteristic portrait

of self-denial (I said from the first/ I am the worst kind of guy), the Stones once again successfully fuse their lyrics into a working class handbook of the do's and don't's of love.

Musically, the album works better than ever. Skinnman Charlie Watts takes his familiar spot behind his stripped-down drum kit and carries the band like never before with inspired rat-a-tat-tat fills that only the greatest pure rock 'n' roll drummer can do.

Newcomer Daryl Jones follows along adequately on bass, slightly easing the disappointment of original bassist Bill Wyman's exit after the *Steel Wheels* tour.

While Jagger sometimes borders on cheese (I got a brand new car/ And I drive her in the dark), he manages to deliver it in a way that, with a Budweiser in hand and a thirst for good rhythm and blues, makes it all seem right.

The album features classic Stony ballads, "Out of Tears" and "Sweethearts Together", but it also tackles new ground on contemporary cuts like "Suck on the Jugular" and "New Faces".

For the Stones fan that has been aching for a decent album dating back to *Tattoo You*, *Voodoo Lounge* combines the ornery-then-blessed guitar work of Richards and Ronnie Wood, the always dependable thumping from Watts and Jagger's unbelievable genius that makes the Stones the Stones again.

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department July 18-24.

- Three male transients were cited on July 18 near the bike path north of Franklin Boulevard for drinking in public.

- A burglary was reported on July 18 at Allen Hall. According to police reports, a laptop computer worth \$1900 was stolen. The method of entry is unknown.

- An 18-year-old was cited July

19 on the 1400 block of Hilyard Street for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

- A 35-year-old male transient was cited on July 19 on the 1500 block of Hilyard Street for drinking in public.

- A 52-year-old male transient was arrested July 20 on the 1400 block of Alder Street for having an open container and providing a false name to police officers.

- A burglary was reported on the 1000 block of Alder Street on

July 21. According to police reports, a ski bag, ski poles, skis and a television were stolen. The items were worth \$585.

- On July 21, University faculty on the 1300 block of Franklin Boulevard reported telephone harassment. According to police reports, the faculty have been receiving four to six harassing phone calls per day over a period of several months. The case remains under investigation.

Compiled by Joe Harwood

COMMUNITY UPDATE

- The Mosaic Teen Center will be hosting a dance party on Friday, July 29, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., for teen-agers ages 13 - 19. Admission is \$3 for non-members and \$1 for members, and ID is required. The center is at 194 W. Broadway. Looking for more information? Call 344-7939.

- The Eugene Astronomical Society and Westmoreland Community Center are sponsoring an evening of free star gazing on Friday, July 29, at Westmoreland Park. Telescopes will be available for use, and a short presentation is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the Westmoreland Commu-

nity Center at 687-5316.

- *The Pirates of Penzance*, a musical comedy by Gilbert and Sullivan, is scheduled for 8 p.m., July 29 and 30, at The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard. This is the final performance for the School's Out! Musical Theatre program, which is a summer workshop for teen-agers. Tickets are \$6, and if you are looking for more information, call 686-0283.

- The fifth annual Japanese Obon Festival, combining traditional dance, taiko drumming and food booths, is scheduled for Saturday, July 30, at Alton Baker Park from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Admission is free. For

more information, call 687-9600 or 687-5333.

- Performers scheduled for Eugene's free Concerts in the Parks series includes the Junction City Brass Quintet, playing the music of Bach, Handel and Haydn on Sunday, July 31, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The concert will be at Washburn Park, on Agate Street between East 19th and 20th Avenues.

- On Tuesday, August 2, the Ragtime Rhythm Ramblers will play at Peterson Barn, at 870 Berntzen Rd., from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This Eugene group plays jug band music, ragtime and blues from the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

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