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**WEATHER**  
Rain today with highs in the mid to upper 50s.

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## Forum expands Vietnam beliefs

■ **CONFERENCE:** Vietnam delegates will generate discussions such as the effects of the Vietnam War

By Cindy Long  
Higher Education Editor

In the United States, when people think of Vietnam, they often think of the Vietnam War and the oppression of a third-world economy.

However, nine delegates from Vietnam will have the opportunity to present new images of Vietnam to University students and faculty Friday and Saturday at the conference, "Vietnam and the United States: Forging a Peacetime Friendship."

"The purpose of the conference is to generate discussion and spur an exchange of ideas," said Steven Swenson, associate director for the University of Oregon-Vietnam Sister University Project in the International Studies Program.

"This is part of an on-going dialogue that Dr. [Rob] Proudfoot started years ago," he said.

The delegates, whose expertise ranges from the effects of the Vietnam War on the environment to the social effects of the transition from a socialist to market economy, will also participate in seminars and visit classrooms during their 10-day

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Debbie Stephens of Eugene picks one of many names off of the Tree of Joy at Valley River Center Sunday night. The Christmas tree will be on display through Dec. 22.

## Christmas gifts given, received at Tree of Joy

■ **PRESENT:** For 16th year, tree ornaments illustrate Christmas wishes of people in need

By Samantha Martin  
Community Reporter

Ten-year-old Keven wants a Dr. Dreadful Drink Lab. Mollie, 43, wants the Forrest Gump soundtrack on CD. And 5-year-old Erik wants gloves and a hat. But he'll settle for some Hot Wheels.

This is the 16th year the Tree of Joy, sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Eugene Rotary Club and Valley River Center, will provide gifts for low income children, seniors and disabled adults in Lane County.

Kay Hammar, a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, explained the application process for the gifts. The Oregon Department of Human Resources sends the application to needy individuals the first week of November. Then the application is mailed back to the department where the requests are entered into a database, printed out and pasted onto felt ornaments.

After the trees are put up around the community, such as in Valley River Center and Payless Drug Store on 29th Avenue and Willamette Street, the ornaments with the name of the recipient and the gift desired are hung on the tree. Additional ornaments are placed on the tree until all gift requests are filled.

Holiday shoppers select an ornament, buy and wrap the designated gift and return it to the tree. The gift is then distributed to a central distribution site. Volunteers sort the gifts and notify the recipients that their packages are ready to pick up. The trees will be up until Dec. 22.

Last year, more than 5,100 gifts were contributed by the community with an estimated cost of over \$125,000. Of the recipients, 4,689 were children, 333 were disabled adults and 108 were senior citizens.

## 'Jimi' Jeff Robbins will play Hendrix's music at birthday tribute

■ **CONCERT:** Robbins and Power Train will donate proceeds to NAACP and Black Student Union

By Kathy Ewing  
Freelance Reporter

A Jimi Hendrix Birthday Tribute Concert featuring "Jimi" Jeff Robbins and the local band, Power Train, will be presented at the EMU Ballroom tonight at 7 p.m.

Cost of admission to the all-ages concert is \$5 with proceeds benefiting the NAACP and the Black Student Union.

Robbins will perform Hendrix' music on the guitar in a 70-minute set followed by an hour

long performance by Power Train — a rock and roll, blues and funk band. Other members of Power Train are Kris Millegan (harp and vocals), Warlock (bass) and Pete Berger (drums).

Raised in a Southern Baptist Church, Robbins grew up with a rich musical background of gospel and blues. He played with the Kentucky Gospel Jubilees as a bass player until he was inspired by Hendrix' music as a teenager.

"When I first heard Jimi Hendrix, that's when I picked up the guitar," Robbins said in a recent press release. "The music just came naturally. I never did learn to read music."

Since then he has traveled

coast to coast playing Hendrix' songs and similar music, becoming involved with the blues scene in Chicago for a time.

Robbins came to Eugene a year ago from Seattle where he lived with the Hendrix family. There he performed extensively in Seattle and Portland clubs. Robbins has also performed with James Cotton, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Koko Taylor and Albert Collins.

Before moving to Eugene, Robbins served time in prison for his involvement in the Seattle drug scene. Since then he has turned his life around. "Music is the only thing that kept me alive during that drug ordeal," Rob-

bins said in a recent press release.

Robbins delivers his music with a message to young people. "I think if you give a kid music, something positive, he doesn't need drugs," he said.

Robbins and Power Train wanted the concert to benefit the NAACP because they thought it was something Hendrix might have donated to when he was alive. "The music of Hendrix transcended race. Music brings people together like nothing else can," Millegan said.

The tribute concert is open to all ages because Robbins wants young people to hear the type of

music he grew up with. "I play jam sessions and gigs around town, like at the Good Times, but kids can't get in to hear the music," Robbins said in a recent press release.

"He is a great music resource for this community," Cindy Fitzpatrick, public relations manager for Power Train, said about Robbins.

"Jimi Jeff not only has the technical ability of Hendrix but also the feeling and look to go with it. He plays the guitar very well," Millegan said. "We know it's going to be a great concert."

The concert is produced by Little Red Hen Productions and sponsored by KZEL FM Radio.