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COUNTDOWN

8

days till graduation.



INSIDE

Find out about commencement and more in the graduation supplement

The sixth annual outside art exhibit begins tonight with a walking tour downtown

1B

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WEATHER

Partly sunny.
High 75. Low 50.University of Oregon
Eugene, OregonOregon Daily
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ANDREW BRACKENSICK/EMERALD

Ric Muñoz (center) takes a jog around Hayward Field with (left to right) June Bods, Milena Glusac, Marie Mutola and Elizabeth May. Muñoz spoke at a benefit dinner for the Eugene HIV Alliance Thursday evening.

Life goes on in spite of AIDS, speaker says

■ **HOPE:** A Marathon runner and a mother of an AIDS victim tell audience to see hope in virus

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Editor

An HIV-positive marathon runner who has starred in Nike commercials urged people not to view AIDS as a debilitating disease at a \$50-a-plate fund raiser for the Eugene HIV Alliance, an organization that provides community AIDS education and support for AIDS victims, their friends and their families.

Jeanne White, the mother of Ryan White, a hemophiliac boy who contracted the AIDS virus through a blood transfusion, also spoke. Ryan became a prominent spokesman for the disease at

the age of 13 when he received national media attention for his plight to stay in a school where other children and their parents did not want him.

Ric Muñoz, whose t-cell count is so low he almost has full blown aids, spoke of how his passion for running helped him transform a life-sucking disease into a struggle to make the most of life. Muñoz has run in 82 marathons since he learned he is HIV positive.

"We have the freedom to choose between standing by and letting life pass us by and surviving," Muñoz said. "This quite clearly a celebration of lives."

Muñoz said he learned how to be a survivor from his mother, who raised him by herself and who died of cancer seven years ago.

He told the crowd of other people

with HIV or AIDS whom he admires because they have not stopped enjoying life despite its setbacks. He said he knows countless numbers of marathon runners with the disease who have accomplished more than he has.

People with AIDS should not allow the disease to prevent them from achieving their goals, he said.

"Don't give HIV the power it so needs to cut short your precious life," he said.

White spoke of the power AIDS has to bring people together. She said her son Ryan used the attention he received from his battle to stay in school to fight ignorance about the disease. Ryan's ability to survive as long as he did and his ability to bring attention to the disease constituted a miracle, she said.

Charity gets celebrities' assistance

■ **BENEFIT:** Local charities found hundreds of famous individuals to donate for a fundraiser auction

By Dawn Paugh
Community Reporter

Two Sammy Davis Jr. costumes and an autographed uniform Maria Mutola wore when setting the 1,000 meter World Record are three of the hundreds of items donated to Lane ShelterCare by celebrities for an auction Sunday.

Profits from the items donated to the "Breaking the Barriers" auction will benefit homeless families at Family Shelter House and Brethren Housing.

"The profits will go directly into operating the budget," said Herb Price, the development director of Lane ShelterCare. "More funds are needed right now because the demand is high."

The items will come from celebrities such as Alan Alda, Yogi Berra, Chris Miller, the Portland Trailblazers, Terry Bradshaw, Anjelica Huston, Suzy Hamilton, Maria Mutola, Richard Dreyfuss, Vidal Sassoon, Julia Child, Crystal Gayle, Floyd Patterson, the Detroit Pistons, Bill Musgrave, J.J. Birden, Oliver Stone, Bob Newhart, John Elway, Jimmy Carter, Jack Kemp, Gov. Pete Wilson, "Coach" Craig T. Nelson, Arnold Palmer, Naomi Judd, Jody Runge, Troy Aikman and many others.

Some items donated include autographed pictures, buttons, books and sporting goods from a wide variety of famous people and teams.

"We have things for children, teenagers, college kids and T.V. folks," Price said. "We're expecting 400 to 500 people; everybody will find something of interest."

Price said he believes many people will be making purchases to resell.

"We also have a lot of inexpensive things like caps," he said.

Bill Musgrave, honorary chairman of the auction, quarterback for the NFL Denver Broncos and University football team alumnus, wrote more than 400 letters to

Turn to **BENEFIT**, Page 5A

Eugene fire claims life of University student; four others escape

■ **BLAZE:** The cause has not yet been determined, but property damage is estimated to be between \$75,000 and \$100,000

By Brian Womack
Community Reporter

A fire took the life of a 21-year-old male University student early Thursday morning at a home on Pearl Street, said Eugene public safety spokeswoman Jan Power.

Investigators suspect arson to

be the cause of the fire. But the exact cause of the fire should be known today, she said. The origin of the fire has been pinpointed, however.

The fire claimed no other victims, but the charred home was described as a "total loss" with property damage between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

The name of the student who died will not be released until he is positively identified through forensic testing, as investigators need to locate dental records, she said. His family

has been notified on the basis of his preliminary identification.

A gathering of friends had taken place earlier that morning at the home, said Rich Reese, a Eugene resident.

The man was asleep in a converted carport when the fire started.

The student's three roommates and a woman who was spending the night were able to climb out of the windows to escape the fire without any injuries.

The fire, which happened at

1677 Pearl St., was reported to Eugene firefighters at 4:45 a.m. Thursday. The first firefighters to arrive at the scene said the 76-year-old home was "fully engulfed in flames." A search and rescue team was formed, but only two-thirds of the house could be searched because of the intense heat from the fire.

After additional fire units arrived to battle the flames, the fire was quickly brought under control. When the rest of the home was searched, the body of the student was discovered.

Arson investigators and detectives from the violent crime unit of the Eugene police were called to the scene to help investigate after police learned there had been an argument at the house that night, during which someone threw a chair out a back window.

Police have not determined whether there was any connection between the argument and the fire.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.