

# The JOURNEY to GRACE

Three travelers are collecting words of wisdom from prominent national figures for a Disney documentary

By Kristin Bailey  
Student Activities Editor



COURTESY PHOTO

MTV alumna Kathleen Kelly films the Journey.

Call it a road trip. Call it a project. Call it a quest.

But Eric Saperston, Kathleen Kelly and Paige O'Brien call it The Journey.

The three 20-something travelers have stopped in Eugene not only to interview author Ken Kesey, but also to help bridge the generation gap. Each of the three calls a different part of the country home. But together they have embarked on a project to find out what the people of this country know and then pass that knowledge along.

"One of the words we use in our project a lot is 'serendipity,' which literally means having an aptitude for making desirable discoveries by accident," Saperston said. "We really have an incredible aptitude for that. But [when we spoke to Ken Kesey], he was saying serendipity is kind of beginner's word, a beginner's idea. But what you really should be after is grace."

The history of The Journey is long and full of twists and turns — and plenty of serendipity. What began a six-month escape from responsibility following Saperston's college graduation evolved into a four-year trek interviewing some of the country's most prominent figures.

"The Chinese have a saying, 'While on the road ahead, ask those coming back,'" Saperston said. "We're the only country that discards our elders, and that's really dysfunctional. They've walked in many more valleys and on many more mountain tops than we have."

The group will be compiling the collective wisdom of the country — amassed from the likes of Billy Crystal, CNN President Tom Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Gov. of Texas Ann Richards, Jerry Garcia and Former FBI Director Bill Sessions — and making it into a Disney documentary later on this year. Book deals stemming from The Journey experiences are also in the works, and a Journey clothing line is slated to appear soon at the University Bookstore.

"One of the things we've learned as we've traveled the country is that we're caught up in a lot of illusions that we see powerful and influential people as un-touchable and god-like in their appearance," Saperston said. "But these people get up in the morning every day and put their pants on the same way we do. And I guess one of the greatest revelations to learn — I've learned — is that even though they have big offices and sometimes big salaries, they're little boys and little girls trapped in big peoples' bodies."

Saperston packed up his 1971 Volkswagen bus with his dog Jack, a journal, a mountain bike and a few other bare necessities in June 1993. Serendipity kicked in when he met up with O'Brien, who was fully entrenched in a corporate job in Atlanta, at a party about 14 months ago. O'Brien offered to help The Journey while Saperston traveled through Georgia.

But the New Hampshire native said after her brush with The Journey, she was unable to go back to the routine her life had become.

"I'd never been challenged so much — not in college, not in my



COURTESY PHOTO

Jack the Dog and his new friend.

#### HOW TO SEE THEM

■ **WHERE:** Ben Linder Forum, EMU Lower Level

■ **WHEN:** Today at 3 p. m.

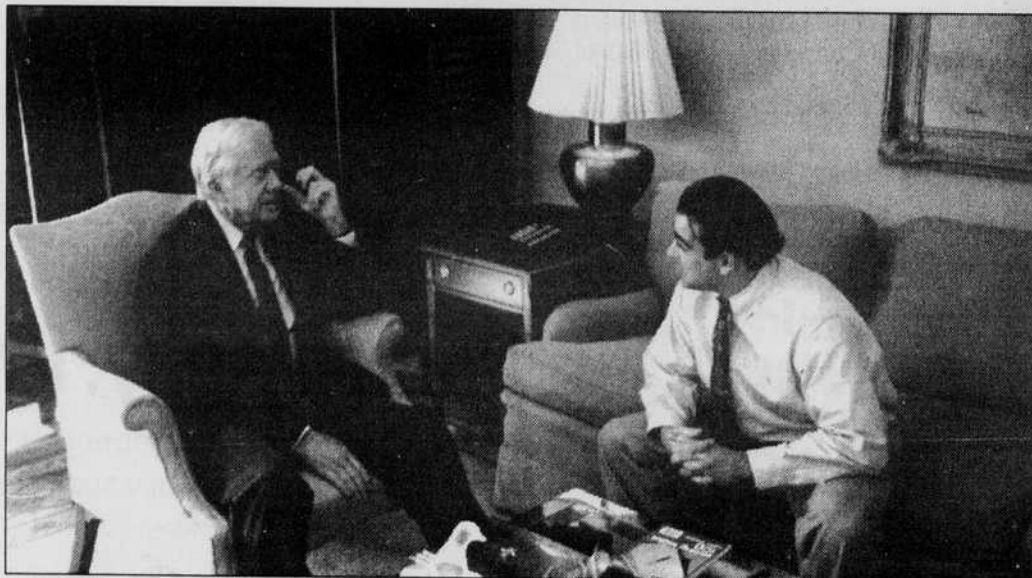
The members of The Journey will be spreading their messages of self-fulfillment and sharing some of their trip experiences.



COURTESY PHOTO

Eric Saperston raps with Jerry Garcia.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Saperston bridges the gap with former President Jimmy Carter.

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Due to a change in plans of a student member, there is a vacant **graduate student position** on the U of O Bookstore Board of Directors through June 1997. Applicants must be currently enrolled in the Graduate School and must maintain a minimum of 9 credits.

Members attend monthly meetings and serve on two committees. Bookstore board members represent students, faculty and staff of the U of O. Board members are directly involved in making major policy decisions for the store. All members receive a \$50.00 monthly stipend for serving on the Board.

All applications are due on **Friday, November 1, 1996.** Please pick up your application at the Bookstore administrative office upstairs.



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