

MEChA gets money

In a short meeting Wednesday, the Student Senate approved funding to help provide food at a Cinco de Mayo event

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Ducks split doubleheader

After dropping the first game to Oregon State, the women's softball team came back to win Game 2 7-1 behind the pitching of Bethany Smith

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TODAY

There will be a workshop on gender issues from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bean West

WEATHER**Today**

Partly cloudy
High 76. Low 47.

Friday

Mostly cloudy
High 71. Low 51.

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Committee says parks need fixing

Members of the Eugene parks committee worry voters won't be willing to pay for improvements

By David Ryan
Freelance Reporter

Members of the mayor's committee on parks and open spaces met with Eugene residents last night to try to decide the fate of a measure that will increase the number and quality of city parks.

In a survey of eleven prominent cities in Oregon, Eugene ranked poorly in the acquisition of public parks and lowest in the number of neighborhood parks and athletic fields.

Charles Warren, a committee member, talked about the city's need for athletic fields.

"We ask our kids to just say no to drugs; we expect them to be good citizens, but in this day and age of the breakdown of family values and the family nucleus we need to have something for them to say yes to," Warren said.

The last voter-approved measure to improve parks and athletic fields was passed in 1976. As Eugene's population has increased, the demand on existing city parks has increased and entire areas of the city, such as west and north Eugene, have few parks within walking distance — roughly one and one-half miles — according to committee member Allen Wilm.

"I've noted that with the existing acreage for parks, if there were 1,000 people, there would be 4 acres of parks between them," said Ed Alverson, a member of the committee.

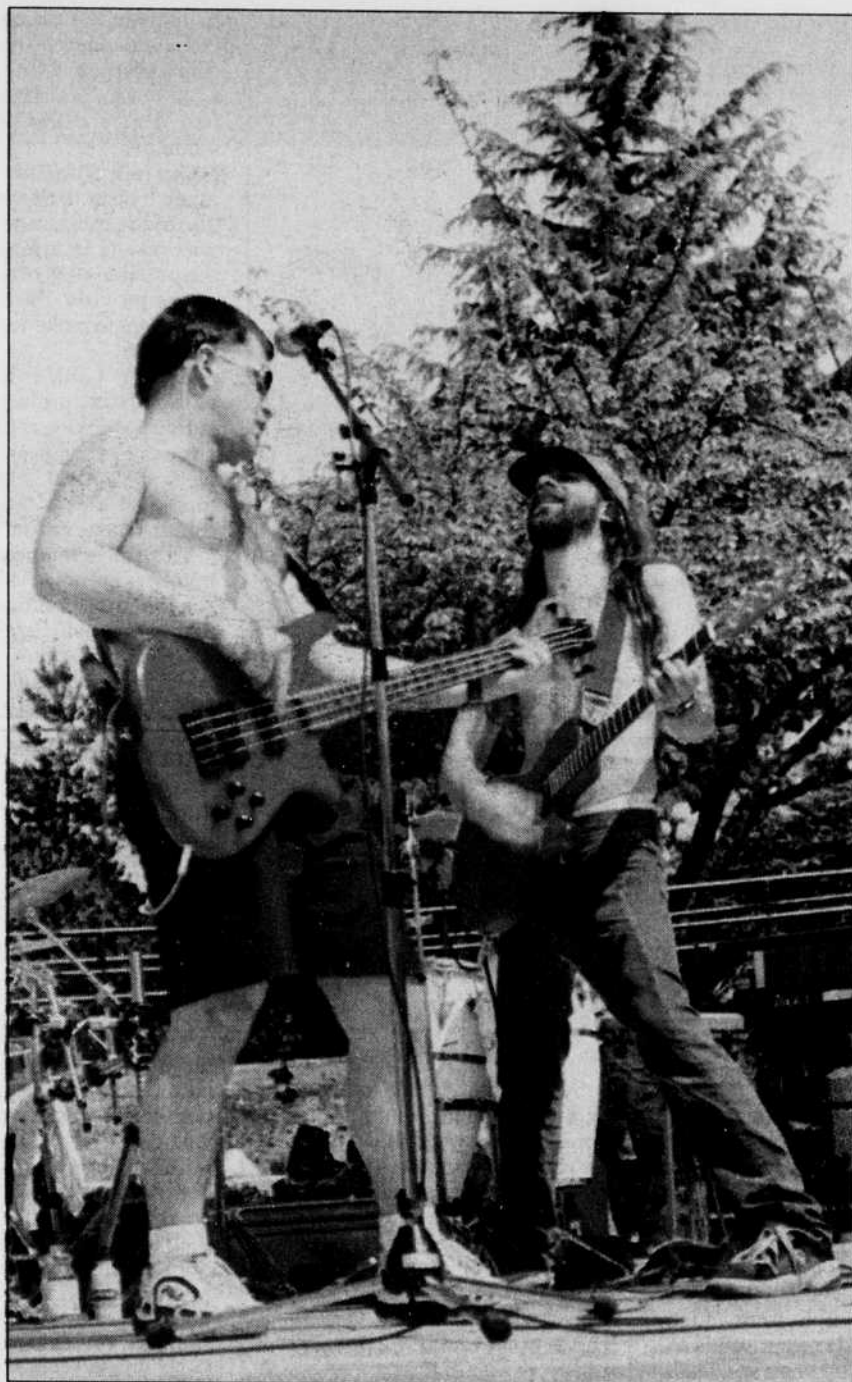
Barabra Culler, another committee member, was concerned about the potential cost of improving the park system.

"We need \$140 million worth of ground to make up for the need," Culler said, "As we go through the evening you will see that number go down and down."

The estimate went down because committee members were skeptical of voter support for a \$140 million measure to increase the number and quality of parks. Therefore, three different options were devised.

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Musical interlude



KRISTEN SULLIVAN/Emerald

Local band Freaks of Nature played Wednesday in the EMU Amphitheater.

City to match private funds for celebration

The City Council voted to help a nonprofit organization fund the Eugene Celebration

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

A couple of months ago when the Eugene Celebration's existence was threatened, many people said there might still be a chance to "party on." The first step toward reaching that goal was taken at a City Council work session on Wednesday.

The council voted to match every dollar raised by a private nonprofit organization to assist in the celebration's transition from a city-run project to a private event.

Only two months ago, the council determined the annual celebration could continue only if a reasonable and affordable option was found to fund it.

The only organization that fit these qualifications was Downtown Eugene Inc. and its affiliate, Downtown Events Management Inc.

"I didn't think we'd be able to get it done this year," Councilman Bobby Lee said. "DEI is taking a risk at putting on the event. But even if it is a failure, we've given it 110 percent."

Downtown Eugene was the only organization to step forward after the council sent out a request for all nonprofits to submit a proposal detailing how they would take over the management of the event. Currently, Downtown Eugene also sponsors other events in the city.

Downtown Events Management Inc. proposed to meet all of the council's concerns, including community involvement, location, family activities, entertainment and food.

"They are very committed to having the same kind of feel that the celebration has had in the past," said Carol Brewster, special events manager for the city. "They intend to keep the food and setup the same. They like the stages, the parade and community involvement."

In return for meeting these requirements,

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Cross-cultural event aims to educate high school students

More than 120 presentations will be made at the University for Foreign Language and International Studies Day

By Ben Romano
Higher Education Reporter

The truth about bullfighting, the finer points of Italian hand gestures and an introduction to Vietnamese will all be featured Friday at the 20th annual Foreign Language and International Studies Day.

Sponsored by the Yamada Language Center, the event aims to "open students up to other languages, cultures, arts and foods, all in one day," said Jeff Magoto, director of the language center and co-coordinator of the event.

More than 2,250 students from 57 Oregon high schools as far away as Enterprise are coming to Eugene for the event.

The day will begin with a keynote address from Bob Crites, creator of Students Helping Street Kids, a program that links area classrooms with needy kids in Third World countries.

"Never has it been more important to be cross-culturally aware," Magoto said. "The purpose of this day is to celebrate that awareness."

In addition to students, 150 parents and teachers are expected to attend the event, Magoto said.

More than 120 presentations by University faculty and students and community members will focus on a smorgasbord of international topics.

Bryan Moore, a Spanish instructor in the romance languages department, will give a presentation on Mexican folk songs. "It's a way for people to appreciate language through music and song," he said.

In his 11th year as a presenter for the

event, Moore said he enjoys "having an opportunity to inspire young people in high school in the hopes that they may go on to study language in college."

Moore's presentation is scheduled to take place in the EMU Ben Linder Room. And he said he plans to mention something about his good friend Linder, who was the first U.S. citizen killed in the Contra-Sandinista war in Nicaragua on April 28, 1987.

"Students get a chance to see something that they're not able to see in their high schools," said Carl Robertson, a Chinese instructor in the department of East Asian languages and a six-year veteran of the event.

The rich and varied sounds of the Chinese language will be the topic of Robertson's presentation, "Chinese Tongue Twisters."

Robertson said he likes working with high school students because it gives him a chance to get in touch with people at a more

"grassroots level."

For the University students and faculty who do the presentations, the event is a good chance to present something about their cultures outside of the typical lecture format, Magoto said.

"It's like U2 getting a chance to play in a small blues club," he said.

Planning the event is a year-long effort, said Kirsten Reindel, a junior majoring in Japanese and international studies. Reindel and Magoto have been co-coordinators of the event for two years.

"[Students] are exposed to cultures other than the typical French, Spanish and German," Reindel said.

About 80 percent of the cost of the event is covered by a \$4-per-student registration fee. The Yamada Language Center covers the remaining cost with help from other offices and departments, Magoto said.