



Zookeepers members Patrick Vernon, left, and Albie Dunbar entertain the crowd during their Thursday concert.

# Weather cuts concert short

Zookeepers couldn't tame the weather as students learned about voting and fraternities

By David Ryan  
Oregon Daily Emerald

They came. They listened. It rained.

The ASUO and the Interfraternity Council co-sponsored a live band in the EMU Amphitheater Thursday evening to kick off the new school year, and greek rush, and to get students attending registered to vote.

Early on, gray weather threatened to become wet. Tim Loun, Interfraternity Council President, predicted calm skies as he stood in front of the Zookeepers.

"We shouldn't have any rain," he said. "These guys are doing the dry dance back here."

But Zookeepers vocalist Patrick Vernon became worried about the band's musical equipment getting damaged by threatening weather.

Peering out at the clouds from underneath a small red tent the ASUO had provided the band, Zookeepers drummer Robert Edmund didn't feel very protected.

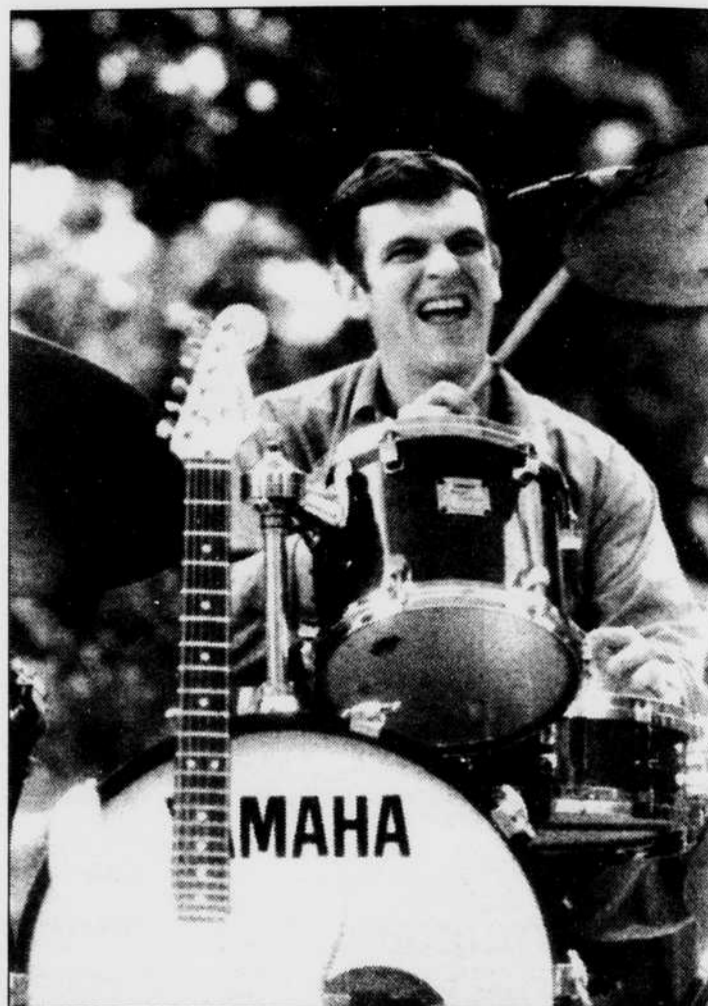
"We don't know which way the rain is going to come in," he said.

The Interfraternity Council and the ASUO were more optimistic about the event itself.

Loun said that by co-sponsoring the event with the ASUO, he wanted to show that the greek system was part of the larger campus community.

"We don't want to be just the greek system," he said. "Plus it's nice to have an event like this so early in the year."

Loun said he hoped freshmen



Robert Edmond keeps time for the Los Angeles-based band the Zookeepers Thursday evening in the EMU Amphitheater.

attending the event would appreciate the chance to get to know one another.

"It's nice to know in a campus of 18,000 you know 20 or so people to say 'hi' to," he said.

Matt Swanson, ASUO state affairs coordinator, said the event was part of a three-pronged plan to get students involved in the political process. He said the

ASUO would continue to get students registered to vote until Oct. 13, then engage in educating voters about issues and candidates and "get out the vote."

The crowd attending the event was mostly composed of male freshmen interested in joining fraternities.

Jeff Barnow, an undeclared freshman, said he didn't know much about the Zookeepers, and he was more interested in joining a fraternity for a few simple reasons — "partying, women, sororities."

John Rykken, a freshman majoring in business, wanted to join a fraternity for different reasons — "For the brotherhood thing."

Swanson, who is a member of the greek system, said greek rush was more than the partying that is commonly associated with it.

"There have been events that have lived up [to the reputation], but I think the greek system is really trying to change that," he said. Swanson's fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi, recently voted to be substance free.

After an hour and a half, a steady drizzle put an end to the music. The Zookeepers cited worries about electrocution.

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