

Book sale will raise finances for new Eugene library

More than 60,000 books, all donated, will be on sale at the annual event

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Army National Guard is coming to Eugene this weekend, but they are leaving their weapons at home.

Members of the Guard, in partnership with the University ROTC, will be helping the Friends of the Eugene Library move 60,000 books from the Sears building on Charnelton Street to the Wheeler Pavilion at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

The books are part of the library's 21st annual Friends of the Library book sale, a fund-raising project.

"Last year we raised over \$50,000 for the Bethel branch of the library, and this year we

awarded an additional \$50,000 for the new downtown library," said volunteer Noreen Madden. The money comes from The Friends of the Eugene Public Library, a fund-raising group.

Normally, the money raised by the sale goes to a "wish list" compiled by the library of items not included in its regular budget, Madden said. These items can include children's programs, new equipment and writers' workshops, she said.

More than 200 volunteers will be working at the sale, including the University ROTC and Presidential Student Scholars, Madden said.

"We easily get 80,000 books donated every year, and that's without even asking," she said.

Of those 80,000 books, the volunteers throw out the torn and damaged books and are left with 50,000 to 60,000 to sell. Volun-

Book sale info

WHO: The Friends of the Eugene Public Library

WHAT: Book sale

WHEN: April 17, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and April 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Wheeler Pavilion, Lane County Fairgrounds

WHY: To raise money for the new Eugene Public Library

teers from the Presidential Student Scholars haul the books over to the old Sears building on Charnelton Street, where they are divided into 45 subjects and boxed.

"We have thousands of books in each subject," Madden said. "You name it, we've got it."

Most books sell for 75 cents.

The more recent books that still

have their dust jackets are taken out and put in their own category. Those books are sold for \$1 to \$3.50. Rare collector's editions are individually priced and are sold for \$2 and up.

But the book sale, which attracts book dealers from all over the country, sells much more than just books, Madden said.

"We sell sheet music, tapes, records ... until you have been to it, it's hard to imagine," she said.

All of this merchandise is packed into more than 2,000 boxes and has to be moved to the Lane County Fairgrounds. That's where the Army comes in.

"The National Guard provides two trucks and personnel to help us move all those boxes of heavy books," she said. Volunteers are waiting at the Wheeler Pavilion to unpack the books when they arrive.

"It's all very well organized," Madden said. "By 8 p.m. [Friday], all the books will be out on the tables."

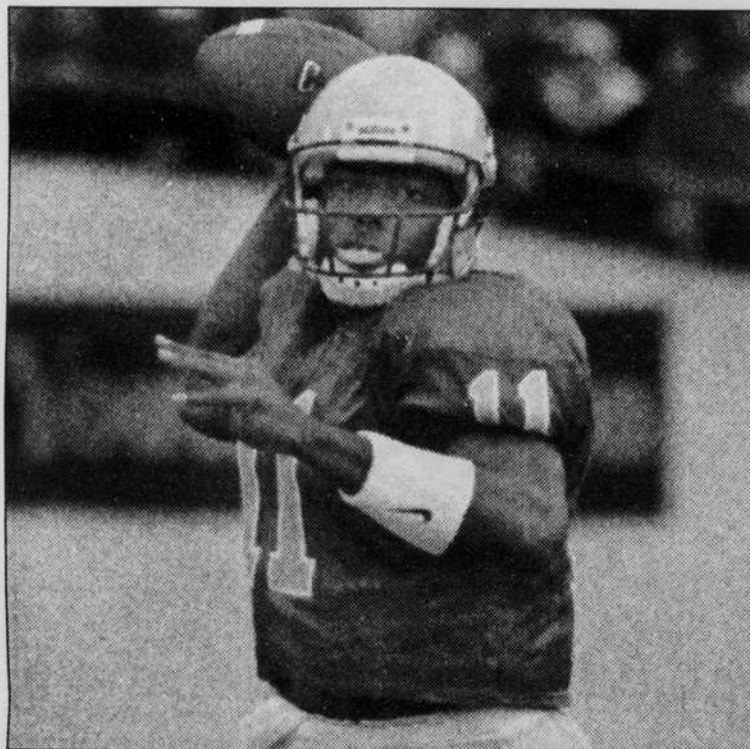
In addition to the generous citizens of Eugene, many area bookstores donate books to the sale, including the University Bookstore and the Smith Family Bookstore.

"We have donated books every year," said Misa Smith, Smith Family Bookstore owner and manager. "We donate books and we also go to the sale and buy a lot of books."

Smith said this sale is a good opportunity to be supportive of the library.

"This way they get books donated for free and get funds to buy the books they want to put on the shelves," she said. "It's a good way to support the library, which is a good thing."

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Nick Medley/Emerald

Experts and scouts have called Smith's arm the strongest in the draft.

Smith

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off-season for Smith in which he has vaulted up the draft board with a flurry of uncanny performances and burst onto sports pages across the country.

This week, Smith is featured on the covers of Sports Illustrated and ESPN Magazine and has appeared on FoxSports' "The Last Word with Jim Rome" and ESPN's "Up Close."

"I'm having a great time," Smith said in a phone interview with the Emerald from California on Thursday, "but actually all these interviews are starting to catch up with me a little bit. I can't wait for it to be over with, but after the draft, interviews will pick up again."

Nationwide, the sports media seem to be enraptured with Smith's circuitous journey.

All of us at Oregon have heard it before:

A failed minor-league baseball career with the Pittsburgh Pirates; two years spent quarterbacking

Grossmont junior college in San Diego; splitting time with Jason Maas in 1997; a skirmish outside the Mill Camp in Springfield and drunken-driving charges that resulted in a one-day suspension from practice last spring; having arguably the best season ever by a Ducks quarterback while leading the team to an 8-4 record in 1998.

But his story has produced the only major criticism aimed at Smith, as some have claimed that his past is too checkered and his experience too limited to challenge Kentucky's Couch for the acclaimed No. 1 spot.

"They couldn't find too much in my game, so now they're just looking for anything to say," Smith said of his critics.

Steinberg, who has represented six of the last 10 first picks, agreed.

"Fortunately, the draft is a projection as to what a player will be like over the next 10 to 12 years," Steinberg said. "It's not a merit badge handed out for conspicuous

college performance."

Accordingly, many, including ESPN draft expert Mel Kiper Jr., predict the Browns will take Smith because of his rocket arm, miraculous mobility and seemingly unlimited potential.

In a New York Times commentary, Thomas George wrote, "In a season-and-a-half as the starting quarterback at Oregon, Smith turned the Pac-10 inside out. He will eventually do the same in the NFL. That is why the Cleveland Browns must select him with the draft's first pick."

For his part, Smith has no problem seeing why he deserves to be the first man selected to the NFL on Saturday.

When asked why he should be the No. 1 pick, Smith said it was because of "the work ethic I'm gonna bring to a franchise, the leadership that I present, arm strength, mobility, everything."

"I really believe I'm capable of leading a franchise to the Super Bowl in a few years."

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