



"Flowers for the Dead," by Merle Reivich

By Yael Menahem  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Skeletons, skulls, vodka and alcohol. Sounds like a Halloween party, but these are actually a few items that represent the holy day called Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead.

The celebrations primarily take place in villages all around Mexico where the deceased are believed to visit the living for one day out of the year.

As a result, their families build altars for them, with food offerings such as turkey with mole sauce to the deceased's favorite drink, be it vodka or beer. The choice depends on the family's social status, history professor Stephanie Wood said.

The living relatives also light candles in the cemeteries and decorate tombs with marigolds. The entire process typifies the ambivalent attitude that Latin Americans have toward death, Wood noted.

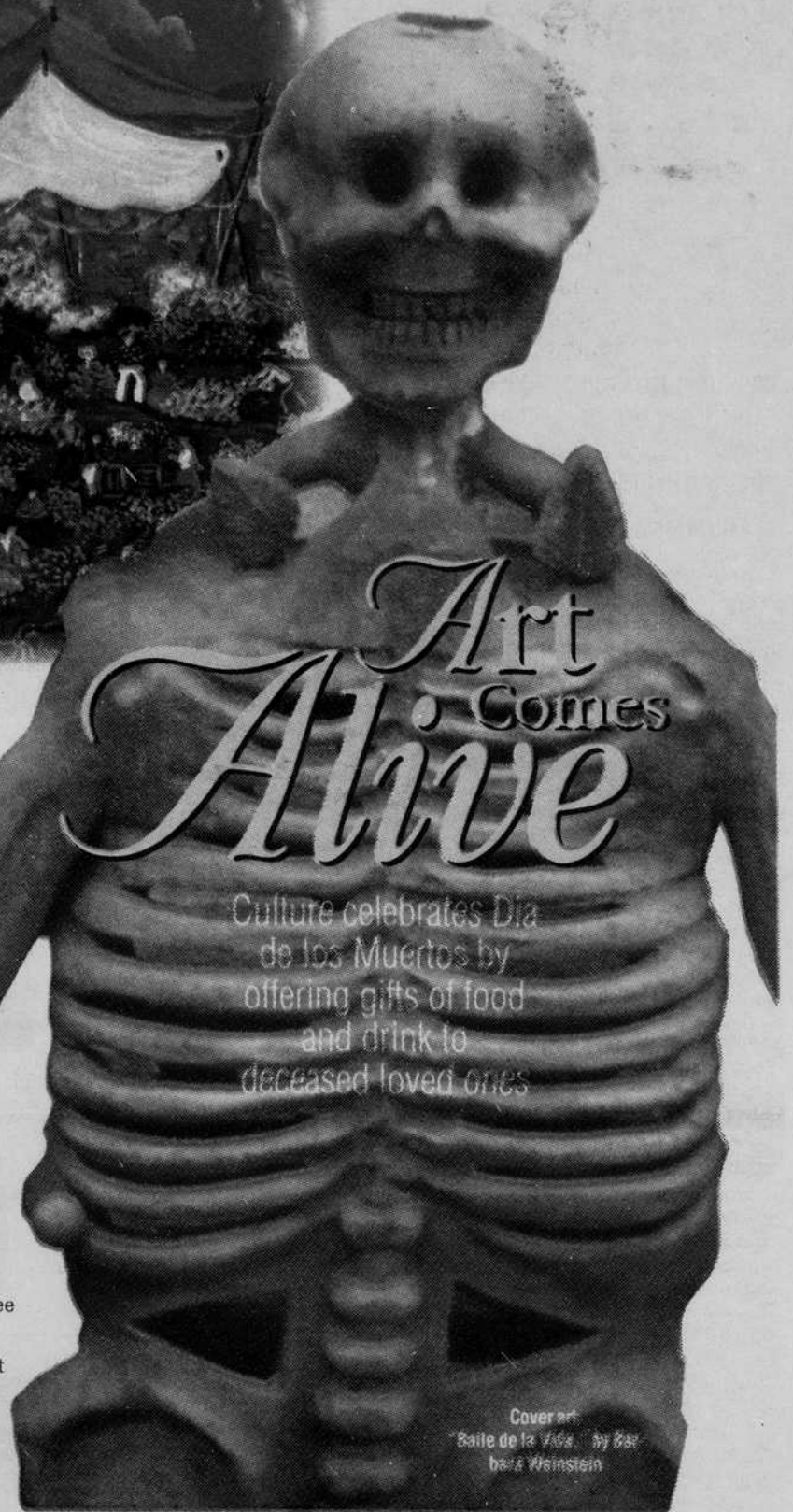
"Even though they have a great respect for death, they poke fun at death," she said, explaining the difference in attitudes toward death between Mexico and the rest of the Western world. "They think that death is a continuation of life, it's part of the life cycle."

To commemorate these practices, the Maude Kerns Art Center is celebrating with the Sixth Annual Day of the Dead Exhibition. The event features paintings, photographs and various other media works centered around Day of the Dead

themes, done by 22 different artists, including one from Eugene.

Tina Schragger, curator of this year's exhibit, said that the art center has made this exhibit an annual event because Day of the Dead falls around Halloween and it sparks the curiosity of those who want to see how other cultures understand death.

The Maude Kerns Art Center is located at 1910 E. 15th Ave. Admission is a \$2 suggested donation. The art center's hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Day of the Dead exhibit runs through Nov. 13.



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