

## Make *everyday* Earth Day

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canvas bags

reusable lunch bags

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May 17th

EMU Main Lobby 10am - 2pm

# City endorses graffiti walls

■ What began as a forum for youths to express themselves has gained the city's and shop owner's support

By Serena Markstrom  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A group of six local artists are putting the finishing touches on a graffiti mural that was recently added to the local outdoor art scene thanks to a grant from the city of Eugene.

The city granted \$25,000 to the Lane Arts Council to administer Art Wall, a program which funded the 10-by-75 mural. Lizzy Hughes, coordinator of the program, said she is excited young people have the chance to paint outdoors.

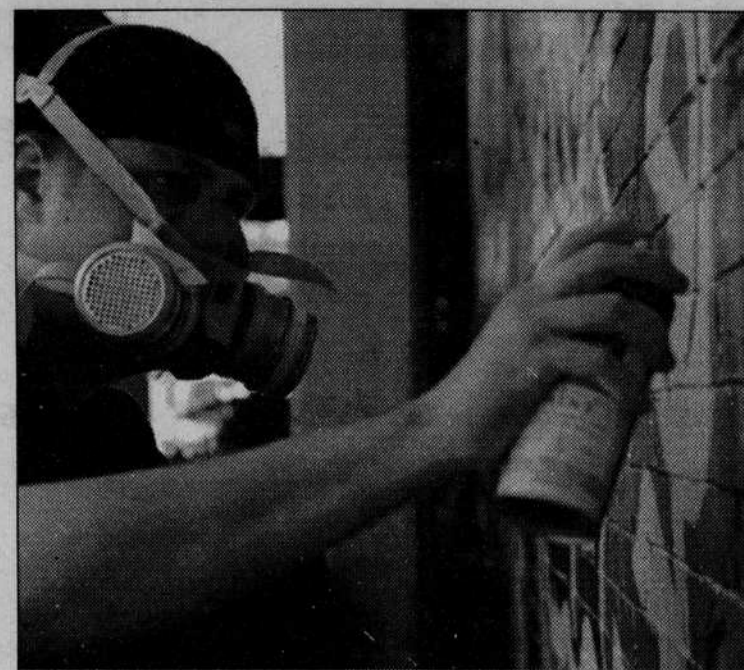
"It's really exciting to see kids be involved with public art," Hughes said.

Graffiti writers often lament that there is no open legal forum for them to express their ideas or display their work, and the mural project is designed to start solving this problem. Though the project is designed as a way to give high school-aged students a creative outlet, it has expanded to accept any interested artists who don't fit the criterion for lead artist.

The grant goes to paying coordinators and buying supplies such as paints and special face masks. The mural is located downtown on the wall of Shoe-A-Holic near Broadway Plaza.

Don't expect the initial mural to stay up long, however. Steve Lopez, one of the group's leaders, said he hopes they can repaint the mural projects every month or two.

"Art is supposed to be continuously changing," said Lopez, a University senior fine arts major. "I don't think a mural should be permanent."



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald  
Ben Slichter, a Lane Community College student, finishes off his piece of the mural.

There are currently three separate groups of young artists working on the project at sites around Eugene. One group, led by Dylan Freeman, a local artist whose wares can be found at the Saturday Market, completed a wall on 444 Lincoln Street. Lopez leads the group of five that is designated to work on the Shoe-A-Holic wall. Lopez also contributed his own talent to the wall.

The third group, led by Kari Johnson, is made up of female brush artists and is in the planning process for a mural.

Other than the background, which was painted with rollers, the Shoe-A-Holic mural is done entirely using spray cans. Each artist used purple, orange, teal and green to create continuity.

"It would be so beautiful to see

walls painted everywhere," Lopez said.

Ben Slichter, a student at Lane Community College, used a mixture of words and characters in his piece.

"Painting, for me, is sort of like meditation," he said. "You can put your life on the wall but it's also a great way to educate other people."

The next mural is tentatively scheduled to go up at the old Sears building downtown and will be a collaborative effort of the groups and any newcomers who join. Organizers continue scouting new mural locations, and after the Sears project it is uncertain where murals will go up and what their content will be. The possibility of doing murals with political and social messages is open.

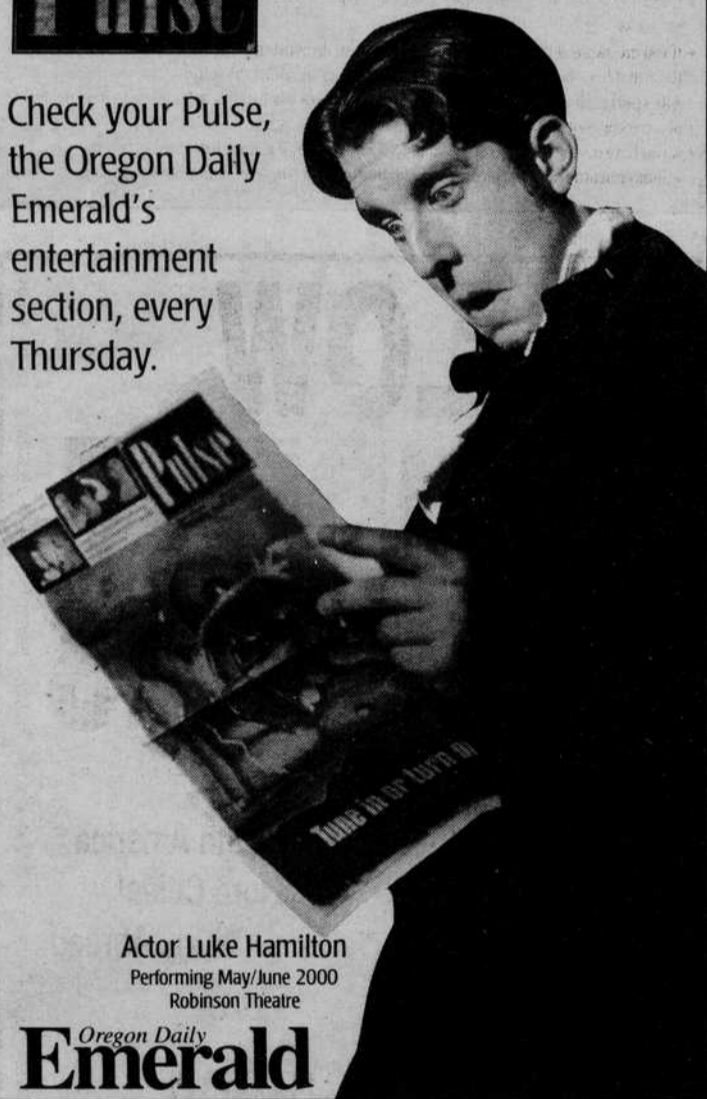
Turn to **Graffiti**, page 6

University Theatre's Nicholas Nickleby has a Pulse.

## Do you have one?



Check your Pulse, the Oregon Daily Emerald's entertainment section, every Thursday.



Actor Luke Hamilton  
Performing May/June 2000  
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### Wednesday, May 17

Music Student Forum: "Music, Nature, and Improvisation"

1:00-1:50 p.m., Beall Concert Hall

Lecture: "Beneath the Surface: Deep Ecology as Philosophy"

3:30 - 5:00 p.m., Gilbert 232

### Thursday, May 18

Lecture: "Terra Nova: Ecology as Culture"

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Chiles 126

Reception: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., UO Museum of Art Lobby

Concert: 6:00 p.m., UO Museum of Art Throne Room

For more information, call 346-5399

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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