

## Smith Rock a challenge to climbers of all ilks

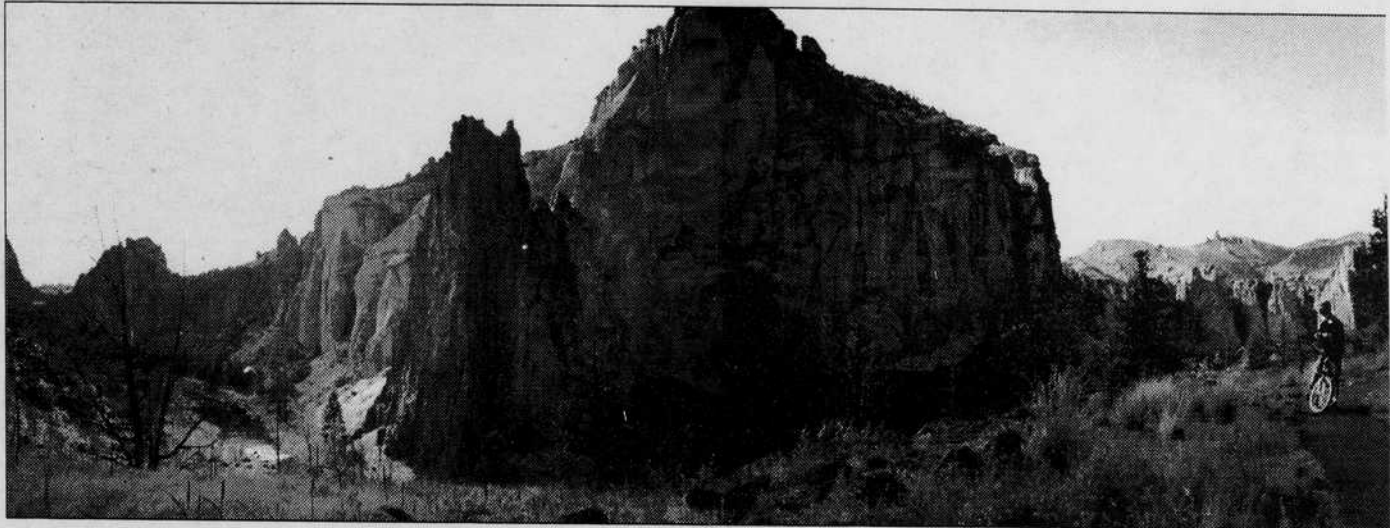
■ Thrill seekers and day trippers find equal parts joy and exhilaration in Eastern Oregon at Smith Rock

By Inge Scheve  
for the Emerald

Smith Rock, with its mostly sunny and dry climate, offers unique experiences and a dry change for rained out trail users to mountain bike, rock climb, hike or just enjoy a day under the open sky.

The orange Grand Canyon-esque formation seems out of place in the otherwise monotonous East Cascade horizon. A good 20-mile drive from Bend and just minutes from Redmond, Smith Rock and the Crooked River Canyon provide world-class rock climbing, challenging mountain bike trails and picturesque hiking options to more than 400,000 visitors each year.

Just glancing at the parking area, it is apparent that this place has vast appeal: parking spots are scarcer than water in the desert, and myriad visitors with different



Smith Rock has it all: rock climbing for all types of climbers, mountain biking and picturesque hiking options for more than 400,000 visitors each year.

goals in mind flock toward the trail head and the foot bridge leading into the main Smith Rock area.

Climbers rate routes on a scale of difficulty starting at 5.0 and increasing in difficulty to 5.14d. Some are attracted by the 5.14d climbing route at Smith Rock. Others take on the steep Burma

Road leading mountain bikers to their part of the paradise, while hikers cherish time out on the mellow path following the meandering Crooked River or choose more strenuous options crossing the ridges.

"The sheer quantity of climbing there" is Smith Rock's greatest ad-

vantage, said Eric Severson, a UO anthropology major who has climbed since high school. The variety of routes spans from beginning routes to some of the United States' hardest 5.14's that have attracted international and domestic rock climbers since the 1980s.

Amadeo Gonzales, a UO biolo-

gy major, agrees with Severson.

"It's the number of routes there and the kind of climbing that's available with tiny pockets and mostly smooth face." He has climbed since he was 17 — although he says never seriously. He did most of his climbing three

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### Fair thee well



Marie Veverka for the Emerald

Donning costumes highlight the fair, inviting you to wear whatever you do or don't want to.

## To be at the Fair is to be

Our hearty reporter braves the enchantment that is the Oregon Country Fair and finds a world free of boundaries

By Jonathan Allen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

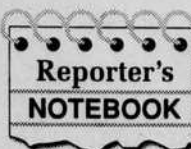
And I thought Disneyland was out of this world.

If Disneyland is a land for the imagination that brings out the kid in you, the Oregon Country Fair is an entire universe of fantasy that...

You see, that's just it. The Turn to **Country Fair**, page 10

Oregon Country Fair cannot be explained. Maybe it's my own limitations as a writer, but I know when I'm beat.

I guess if Disneyland brings out the imaginative kid in you, the fair makes that kid want to tear his clothes off, dance naked



## Celebrity penises are no hard sell in New York

■ Anatomical art stirs desires and tugs imaginations of the celebrity skin models

By Sara Jarrett  
for the Emerald

NEW YORK — Cynthia Plaster Caster likes cock.

Correction. Cynthia Plaster Caster loves cock.

Yet, she'll be the first to admit her infatuation and even shows off her obsession to anyone interested in looking.

This rock star groupie-turned-artist has a collection of 45 famous and/or infamous erections preserved in a mixture of plaster and water currently on display at the Thread Waxing Space in the heart of New York City's SoHo district.

Thirty-nine life casts, as she calls them, glow underneath brightly lit domes that sit atop 5-foot-high pedestals. The air in the room during Caster's June 29 opening was hot and sticky, with camera crews everywhere, filming a documentary titled "The Life Casts of Cynthia Plaster Caster: 1968-2000," which will be entered in next year's Sundance Film Festival.

Hardly a word was said — but fingers were pointing.

Though Caster claims she doesn't favor rock stars, her collection is overwhelmingly full of them. With none other than the legendary musician Jimi Hendrix's penis immortalized in the assortment, it becomes clear that she has successfully taken the groupie lifestyle past the point of obsession and turned it into an art

form.

And Hendrix's unit is quite impressive, indeed, not too big and not too small. As one happy onlooker explained to her young son, "Wow, Jimi Hendrix — he takes the cake." Other members of the collection include Ronnie Barnett of The Muffs, Bert Flores of Pig-face/Wreck and Ivan of Flying Karamazov Brothers.

Caster's wish list is even more interesting. Last year it was Pulp's Jarvis Cocker's penis that she wanted but never got, but this year she has her hopes set on the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

"I haven't gone about trying, and I'm not too optimistic [about getting it] though," she said. "But you know, a groupie girl can dream."

After all, dreaming has paid off for her in the past. That's what got her into this line of work in the first place — dreaming of sex that is.

"I was an unbroken virgin at the same time the sexual revolution and the British invasion were happening," she explained. "I was wondering whether it was true that sex could be used for more than just reproduction. I was also curious about what penises looked like, and what they could do for me."

After finally deciding that she should actually have sex, Caster realized that she was too shy to seduce men. So, she turned to asking them for a more special memento.

"It was a schtick to get the attention away from all the other competition, you know, the

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### Penis envy

If you go to New York, look for the penis plasters.

"Cynthia Plaster Caster: The Life Casts of Cynthia Plaster Caster: 1968-2000."

Organized in conjunction with Feature, Inc.

June 28-July 29, 2000

At Thread Waxing Space, 476 Broadway, 2nd floor.

Call 212-966-9520 for more information.