

PULSE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday

Out of Gas

The final Pocket Production pokes fun at the MTV reality with "Running on Empty" **PAGE 8**

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NORTHWEST GETAWAYS

Victoria, B.C.

The lesser-traveled city of Victoria, British Columbia, may be the perfect Canadian getaway location for vacationers of all sorts

By Dave Depper
Oregon Daily Emerald

O' Canada, our great neighbor to the North. Home of Mounties, hockey, snow, French accents and Dan Aykroyd. The gateway to the last frontier. The place where people say "eh?"

Yeah, yeah, you've heard it all about Canada. But you don't want to visit Canada to see its lush beauty and old-time culture, do you? What you care about is the fact that you're not 21 yet and you can drink there, right?

Well, it's true. Canada's drinking age is 19, and every year thousands of young college students make the trek up to Vancouver to experience the grown-up nightlife.

This is all very well and good, but many of these folks are missing the point. Canada is a cool place to visit for reasons other than imbibing alcohol as a minor. (Although it's pretty cool when you are drinking, too).

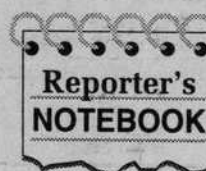
For starters, don't go to Vancouver — everybody goes there. Instead, take a trip to the capital of British Columbia: Victoria.

Numerous travel magazines annually rate Victoria in the world's top 10 cities. Once you've seen what the area has to offer, it's not surprising.

Known as the City of Gardens, Victoria has over 300,000 residents, yet it radiates a pleasant, small-town atmosphere. Great Britain colonized Victoria more than 150 years ago, and the influence of Olde England remains strong today. You can hitch a ride on a red double-decker bus, sit in a horse-drawn carriage or drink high tea in the afternoon.

A must-see stop on your Victorian vacation is the world-famous Butchart Gardens, about 15 miles north of Victoria. With more than 1 million blooming flowers, Butchart Gardens is a feast for the eyes and a treat for the nose. During the holidays, the gardens are rigged

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Oregon Coast

Oregon's coast may not have the reputation of sunny California, but it offers beautiful vistas and scenic recreation less than an hour away

By Dave Depper
Oregon Daily Emerald

When it comes to the West Coast beach wars, California tends to beat the tar out of its northerly neighbors in terms of popularity. A mention of the Golden State's shores brings up images of the blazing sun, killer waves and shapely bodies playing a game of sand volleyball. Mention the coast of the Beaver State to the average person, however, and you're likely to fill the person's head with nightmares of rocks, freezing winds, jagged cliffs and sweatshirts.

This is a shame, because there is so much cool stuff to do on the Oregon coast that it might be accurate to call it the West's best-kept secret.

First of all, if you haven't noticed, Eugene is a one-hour drive from the Pacific Ocean.

This means that students live closer to a coast than about 99 percent of the United States. Why aren't more of us taking advantage of this fact? Oregon's coast has earned a bad rap, pure and simple.

The closest coast town to Eugene is Florence, which is located due west. Take the scenic drive down Highway 126 for about 45 minutes and you'll get to the famous Highway 101, which will take you right to your destination.

Florence is one of the more popular tourist attractions on the Oregon coast, but it feels so homey and natural there that it's hard to tell at first. There's a ton of stuff to do there, too.

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