

Entertainment Editor:
Jeremy Lang
jlang@gladstone.uoregon.edu

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DIRTY POP PLEASURES

Though Tuesday heralded the release of *NSYNC's new album, campus-area record stores weren't exactly flooded with fans

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Despite the prevailing stereotype of students hitting the books with indie or alternative rock, punk and the occasional 1980s retread playing in the background, college kids dig bubble-gum pop.

A springtime jaunt around the residence halls, greek houses and apartment complexes in the University neighborhoods will reveal all the Total Request Live staples from Britney Spears to Hanson blasting from open windows.

But on Tuesday, when the long-awaited second-coming of *NSYNC arrived and the new album, "Celebrity," hit the shelves, few college students rushed to the campus independent record stores to indulge their pop pleasures.

Instead, they slunk toward chain stores and mall shops, but with caution and under a cloak of anonymity.

At Face the Music on 13th Avenue, nobody camped outside waiting hungrily for the doors to open so they could get their hands on the 13 Jeep-bumpin' tracks. Emily Singleton, a worker at the store, said the

atmosphere was, at most, anti-climatic.

"I haven't thought about it much," she said.

Singleton said her store ordered 20 copies of the album, compared with about 140 for "Kid A" and "Amnesiac" from Radiohead, a current pop icon dominating the college music scene much like *NSYNC rules the TRL charts and junior high schoolers' hearts.

Farther down 13th Avenue at House of Records, Greg Sutherland said he ordered two copies of the album and one on tape, but by early afternoon Tuesday, none of the copies had been snatched up.

Sutherland added that he expected to unload his copies, but probably not to the college crowd that comes in looking for local bands, punk rock and classic albums on vinyl.

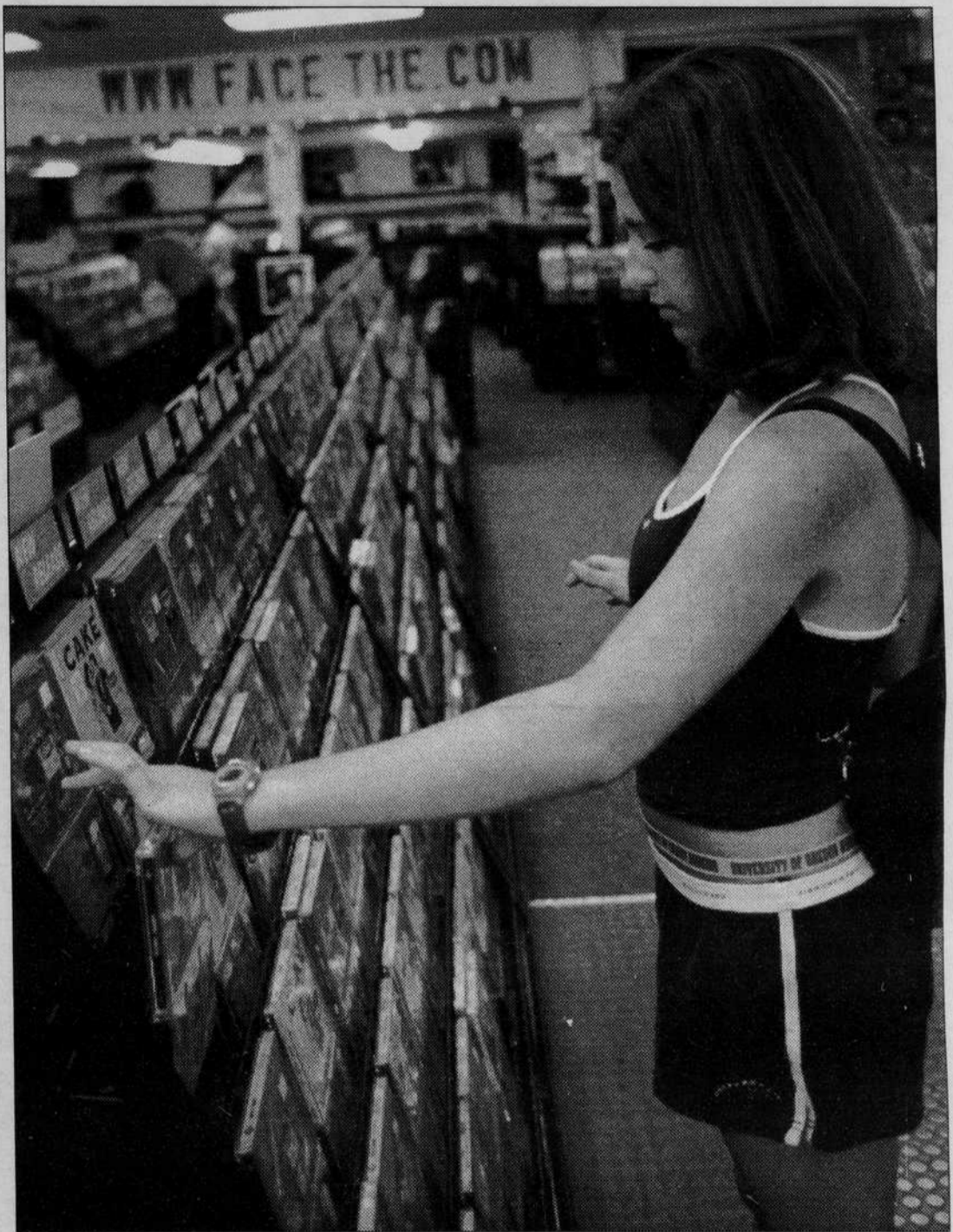
"Moms come in here with kids," he said. "They still seem to sell."

The situation was even more bleak for collegiate *NSYNC fans who turn to Stylus Grooves for their house, techno and DJ-ready beats. Ben Colgan said his store didn't stock a single copy on Tuesday, let alone a copy on vinyl for a DJ to spin at summer college parties.

"We wouldn't carry an *NSYNC album," he said. "Unless it happens to be one hell of a bad-ass remix."

Students spending their summer in the

Turn to *NSYNC, page 8



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Blake (above), who refused to share her last name, contemplates the dirty little pleasures of "Celebrity," *NSYNC's new album. Not afraid to show their *NSYNC pride, Katie Victorson, Rachel Burge and Mara McCornack (left), all age 10, stand by their men. All three girls think that Lance — the one in the middle, in case you didn't know — is the best.



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

HOT TIMES, SUMMER IN THE CITY

Life in Eugene will get spicier this weekend as chili cooks and salsa dancers take over the downtown area for the Eugene Chilibration

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

Chili lovers, take note. The first Eugene Chilibration is here — and event organizers promise the two-day salsa competition and chili cook-off will be even hotter than the winning bowl of chili.

Hosted by the same group that sponsors the Eugene Celebration and First Night Eugene, the Chilibration will be held downtown at the intersection of Broadway and Willamette streets.

The gates open at 5 p.m. Friday, and those who show up between 5 and 6 p.m. that day can buy a two-day pass for \$5 — after that, it will be \$8 for both days or \$5 for just Saturday.

Admission comes with a spoon, a cup and a napkin — and then participants are free to sample chili creations from the 12 to 15 cooks expected to attend, said Britt Tvenge, the marketing director for Downtown Events Management, the group hosting the event.

Cooks are encouraged to use their own style and to be as flamboyant as possible, she added, with awards given to the cook with the best booth as well as the best chili.

Hosting the event will be Ev Levine, aka the "Chili Belle." Levine, who describes herself as having "a long-time interest in hot food," will provide the crowd with samples of her very own "Love Chili."

Eating this chili infuses a person with love, she said, but she won't divulge what goes into her heart-felt recipe.

"Just as love is a mystery, so is the secret ingredient in Love Chili," she said.

Levine said an added bonus to the Chilibration is that organizers have obtained a permit allowing festival attendees to drink alcohol outside the beer garden — which, according to Levine, is a key ingredient to a proper chili cook-off.

"You can't be cooking chili without drinking beer," she said.

Along with community members, Levine will also be dancing at the Chilibration, performing a range of spicy dance styles such as Argentine tango, Cajun and salsa.

Live music will be another feature of the event, with Friday night's entertainment including performances by blues artists Skip Jones and Norton Buffalo and the Knockouts. Buffalo, a renowned harmonica player, has toured with the Steve Miller Band and has recorded songs with former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.

On Saturday, events begin at 11 a.m. with a Corvette and vintage motorcycle show, crafts and activities for children, and a John Wayne memorabilia exhibition. There will also be music performances throughout the day by Los Mex Pistols del Norte, LaZoo and other artists.

But the main event of the Chilibration will be the chili cook-off itself, with cash prizes totaling \$1,000 up for grabs to the best chef. Following the salsa competition on Saturday, judges will sample the cooks' chili and select a winner based on criteria such as color, texture, smell, taste and spiciness.

Mrs. Lane County, Annette Konnie, will be one of the competition judges. A first-time chili judge — the contestant in the upcoming Mrs. Oregon competition said she volunteered for the job because "I love chili."

As this is the first year for the event, Konnie said she's not sure what to expect, but she plans on having a good time.

"I'm just looking forward to meeting some really wonderful people," Konnie said. "And hopefully not spilling anything on myself."