

Thursday, April 4, 2002

NOW PLAYING!

## LOCAL, CHEAP AND OPEN TO ALL

UO Cultural Forum's latest venture is a series of all-ages rock shows that cost only \$1

By Jen West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene music scene has often been criticized for offering only a few venues for those under age 21 to experience the talents of local bands. In an effort to provide these youngsters with greater access to local entertainment, the UO Cultural Forum will host an all-ages "Local Music Showcase" that will feature local bands performing on the first Saturday of every month.

This month's musical line-up consists of rock bands alterEGO, 2Bucks Short and The Courtesy Clerks. They will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday in the EMU Fir Room. The cost of entry is \$1 at the door.

Vocalist/guitarist Taylor Morden, guitarist Mat Foster, bassist Gary Roberts and drummer Cliff Roberts make up alterEGO, and they will be promoting their self-titled CD released last summer. Every song on the CD is available on [www.mp3.com](http://www.mp3.com).

2Bucks Short features vocalist/guitarist Matt Heath, bassist Kevin Cameron, drummer Scott Sutton and guitarist Dylan Vessey. The band has a five-song demo that will be available for sale at the show.

The Courtesy Clerks include vocalist/guitarist Mark Rogers, bassist Mike B. and drummer Ron Topofyou.

This concert marks the first time the three bands have performed together, according to Foster, although members from all three have formed friendships during the past two years.

Foster birthed the idea for a monthly musical showcase.

"I've been wanting to get cheap shows on

campus for kids in the dorms and other people around this area to get out and check out local music," he said.

Foster said he enjoys being able to play with his favorite bands and has "been a 2Bucks Short fan for a long time."

Cultural Forum Regional Music Coordinator Nathan Hazard said Foster approached him with idea of doing a local musical showcase. He said he approved of the idea and even tentatively slated the showcase to continue into next year.

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**Mat Foster**  
bassist, alterEGO

"Most music in town being in bars, I agreed with (Foster's) feelings," Hazard said. He also said the Cultural Forum stands to benefit from having shows set on a consistent schedule.

"It's really tough to get an all-ages show in this town," Heath said. He said the high cost of renting out a venue such as the Wild Duck Music Hall or WOW Hall makes it "tough to break even" and difficult for any band to hold a concert, regardless of its talent.

But "it's the kids that suffer," he said, not the venues or even the bands.

Despite the struggle to find a venue that

falls within their budget, these bands' members said they have experienced some modest success.

Heath said the bands have been working together on promotional projects, most of which have been on the Internet.

The Internet "is a great promotional tool," he said. "That's how most people find music these days, especially with the shut-down of Napster."

Cameron said he thought 2Bucks Short's growing popularity has probably resulted from performing at all-ages shows.

"Once we got those (shows), e-mail would just skyrocket," he said.

Although both Foster and Heath were reluctant to claim a large fan base, Foster said, "The fans that we do have are super loyal, and they're awesome."

Heath said that their concerts are always dominated by the energy of their fans.

"Our goal when we go out there is to try and top what the crowd is doing," he said. "If we can match their energy level or exceed it, then it was a good showcase."

Cameron said he hopes the showcase will be "butt-packed" with people, but whether "there is going to be three people or 300, it is going to be a good show."

For more info on the bands, check out [www.alteregomusic.com](http://www.alteregomusic.com), [www.2bucksshort.com](http://www.2bucksshort.com) and [www.thecourtesyclerks.com](http://www.thecourtesyclerks.com). The Courtesy Clerks' Web site is down for repairs but promises it will be back up soon.

E-mail reporter Jen West at [jenwest@dailymerald.com](mailto:jenwest@dailymerald.com).

ALL AGES SHOW!

## Pulitzer Prize winner tells of infant trauma, Panama invasion

■ Edward Humes delivers the 2002 Johnston Lecture today, discussing his work on 'immersion journalism'

By Alix Kerl  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Robert Allman's son was born too soon. The child, bruised from head to toe from the trauma of delivery, lay motionless in a heated acrylic case in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward Humes was there, watching it all. He was there as dozens of tiny infants struggled for life, and he records it all in his newest book, "Baby E.R."

Humes will be on campus today for a lecture, "The Art of Being There: Immersing Yourself in the Story," as part of the 2002 Johnston Lecture Series. It begins at 4 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge in Gerlinger Hall.

Humes started as a newspaper journalist and prided himself on asking the unanswered questions to find fascinating stories.

"Ed is a combination of a meticulous

reporter and a masterful storyteller," said Lauren Kessler, director of the graduate program in literary nonfiction in the journalism school. "He writes about important issues with clarity and insight. His work has emotion but little sentimentality."

Humes won the Pulitzer Prize for journalism in 1989 for specialized reporting for his newspaper writing on the military.

The award recognized his dispatches from Panama during the U.S. invasion, articles on the unjust execution of an army private during World War II, and his year-long investigation of fatal helicopter crashes linked to flawed night-vision devices.

Later, Humes longed to have months instead of hours to craft stories, so he left daily journalism to begin writing books. Through the creation of his six non-fiction books, Humes has been honored for his intense and thoughtful portrayals.

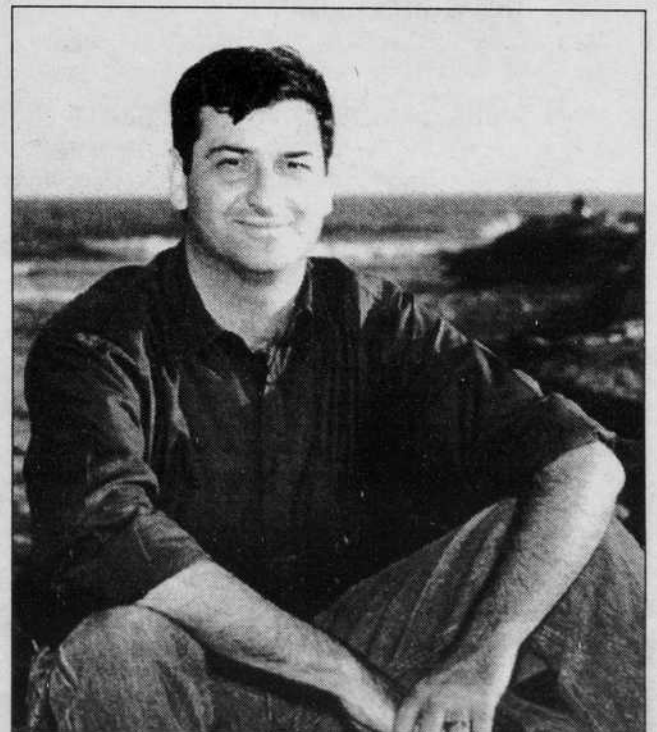
"Baby E.R.," published in November 2000, is a real-life medical thriller that immerses the reader in the inner

workings of a neonatal intensive unit. Humes' previous book, "Mean Justice: A Town's Terror, a Prosecutor's Power, a Betrayal of Innocence," published in 1999, was named a best book by the Los Angeles Times. "No Matter How Loud I Shout; A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court," published first in 1996, was named the best book of the year by the Investigative Reporters and Editors of America. It also received the 1997 PEN Center USA award for research nonfiction, and the book is being developed as a television series.

Humes' other books include "Buried Secrets," "Murder With a Badge" and the bestseller "Mississippi Mud," which chronicles the assassination of a Mississippi judge and his mayoral candidate wife by a shadowy group known as the Dixie Mafia.

Prosecutors later used evidence Humes developed in researching the book to win a conviction and 18-year prison sentence against the former mayor of Biloxi, Miss.

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