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Music, music, more music
Columnist Dave Depper explores the
abundant spring harvest of new releases.
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Thomas Patterson Emerald

'HALF'-life is art

■ Graduate student Elizabeth Parr's gallery show celebrates the idea that decay is beauty

By Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

In today's world of anti-aging cream, cosmetic surgery and crash diets, the idea that decay and imperfection can be beautiful may seem like an absurd notion. But graduate student Elizabeth Parr has demonstrated the beauty of decay in her paintings and drawings using the human form and abstract art.

Parr celebrated the opening of her art exhibition, "HALFLIFE," Friday and will continue showing her paintings and drawings noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays through April 26 at the Temporarily Maude Downtown Gallery. The Gallery is located at 68 W. Broadway on the downtown mall.

Parr said her artwork explores the dichotomy of beauty and decay from many angles.

"I think in our culture (the idea of decay) is a really negative thing and a scary thing to a lot of people," she explained. "But it can be really genuine and really reassuring."

Even the materials she uses, such as dry wall, masking tape and Elmer's glue convey a sense of non-permanence.

Heather Russell, a fellow art history graduate student at the University, said most artists have an interest in preservation, but Parr does the opposite, and she seems to concentrate on the message having an interesting idea — not on trying to make it last.

Imperfections are another important aspect to her art, Parr said, and she tries to pick out the oddities that are normally

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Graduate student Elizabeth Parr (above) finds a sense of peace through the catharsis of creating art. Many of her works are self-portraits (left).

Film festival lets fresh talent shine on campus

■ Organizers expect the 2002 UO Student Film and Video Festival to have many more sponsors and awards than in 2001

By Ryan Bornheimer
for the Emerald

Cinephiles don't have to go to Cannes or Venice to catch the newest creative minds in the world of film.

The University has its own share of fresh film talent, which will be on display at the second annual UO Student Film and Video Festival. The festival kicks off 7 p.m. Friday in 100 Willamette with a reprise presentation of 2001's festival.

The entries for this year's festival won't actually be shown until the end of the term, as many of the student films are final projects for spring term classes. This year's festival will feature the newest batch of student projects

covering a variety of categories, including: Music videos, animation shorts and experimental productions, all produced by University students. Advertisements, public service announcements, dramatic short features and news items are also included in the collection. The free public re-screening Friday showcases 36 entries from last spring's festival.

An event of this kind may not have been possible just a few years ago, said Dan Miller, a journalism professor and festival organizer.

"Digital media has finally advanced to the point where students can produce broadcast quality work relatively inexpensively," he said.

Miller organized the festival with fellow journalism professor Ken O'Connell and students from the University chapter of the National Broadcasting Society. Miller said last year's event "exceeded our expectations."

Festival Committee Chairwoman Cassie Hi-

bbert agreed.

"The place was packed," she said. "People were sitting in the aisles. It was great."

The festival committee thought the reprise presentation of last year's entries would be a great way to stir campus interest in the 2002 festival as well as offer guidance and inspiration to those interested in submitting projects.

"The best communities feed off each other, and this is a great way for students to share ideas," said festival advisor Rebecca Force, also a journalism professor.

She said the amount of creativity that came out of last year's festival was "remarkable," and she is looking forward to what this year's festival will offer.

Because of the overwhelming success of last year's event, the 2002 festival promises to be

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Regional hip-hop influences hit campus

■ Four Eugene bands will display the variety of local talent at a concert Friday

By Alix Kerl
Oregon Daily Emerald

Many students may have thought the hip-hop scene in Eugene was limited. But they were wrong.

"Down & Dirty," a celebration of Eugene hip-hop, will feature four local hip-hop bands. The show is 9 p.m. Friday at Agate Hall.

The four groups, Logic, Texasippi Boiz, 13th Tribe and J2MIH, represent an eclectic mix of styles that show both the past and future of hip-hop.

The diversity of the groups playing Friday is representative of the multi-farious nature of the Eugene scene. Texasippi Boiz consists of Clientel from Texas and Spydaman from Mississippi. The two are new to the area but are veteran MCs from the south. Their music is highly influenced by this background.

Logic has two vocalists, Katie Stevenson and Cortez, one DJ and three MCs.

13th Tribe is a trio of piano, drums and trumpet, and plays soulful music influenced by hip-hop, jazz and rock. Drummer Mike Shuman said the band's varied influences give it eclectic style.

"(Keyboardist) Jonathan calls our music 'tribal astrofunk,'" said Shuman.

The members of 13th Tribe have been playing together for a year, but their musical experience started long before that.

"We all come with our own style, and we try to blend it together," Shuman said.

Shuman grew up in Southern California playing music with his brother, who played in several jazz groups throughout California.

J2MIH, whose name stands for the Juice to Make it Happen, is a high-energy group that plays catchy beats and melodic chants. The group consists of eight MCs, two bass players, a DJ and a clarinet player.

"There's so many of them on stage that you don't have a choice but to get excited," said Gabe Sechrist, a University student organizing the show.

Sechrist described the group as high-energy and vibrant, with well-planned lyrics. The group identifies their music as thoughtful, new hip-hop.

"Our lyrics are pretty conscious," said Ethan Virin-Brown, an MC and bass player for the group. "We don't rely on words as a crutch, and we don't rely on cuss words."

Sechrist is in the midst of organizing a student hip-hop group that would bring together people who have talents in graphic arts and music, as well as other creative talents.

"We're trying to unite hip-hop and make something fun for students," said Sechrist. "We're getting a lot of interest from different groups. A couple groups of breakdancers have been coming out to the shows." Sechrist is also putting on several other hip-hop shows

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