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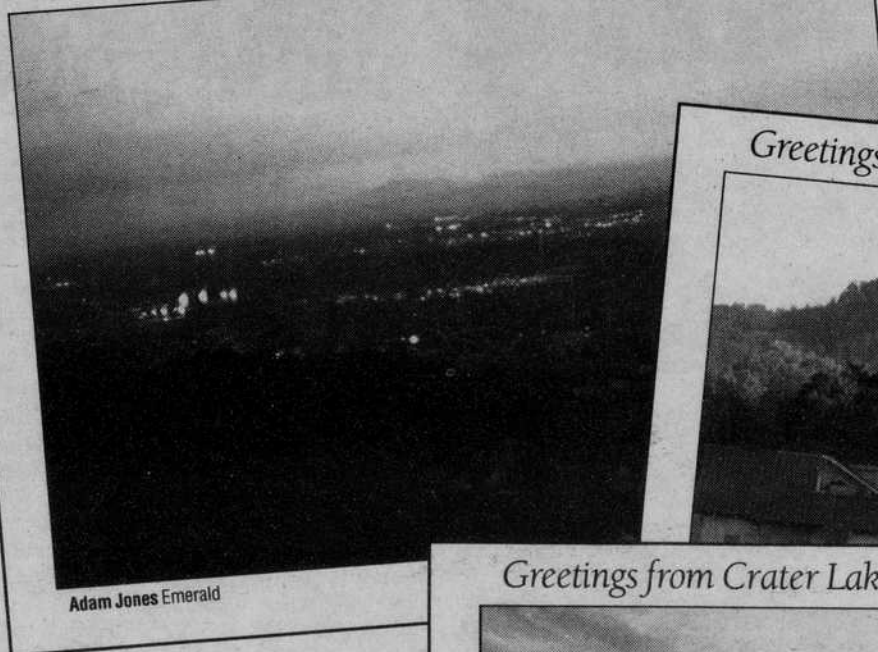
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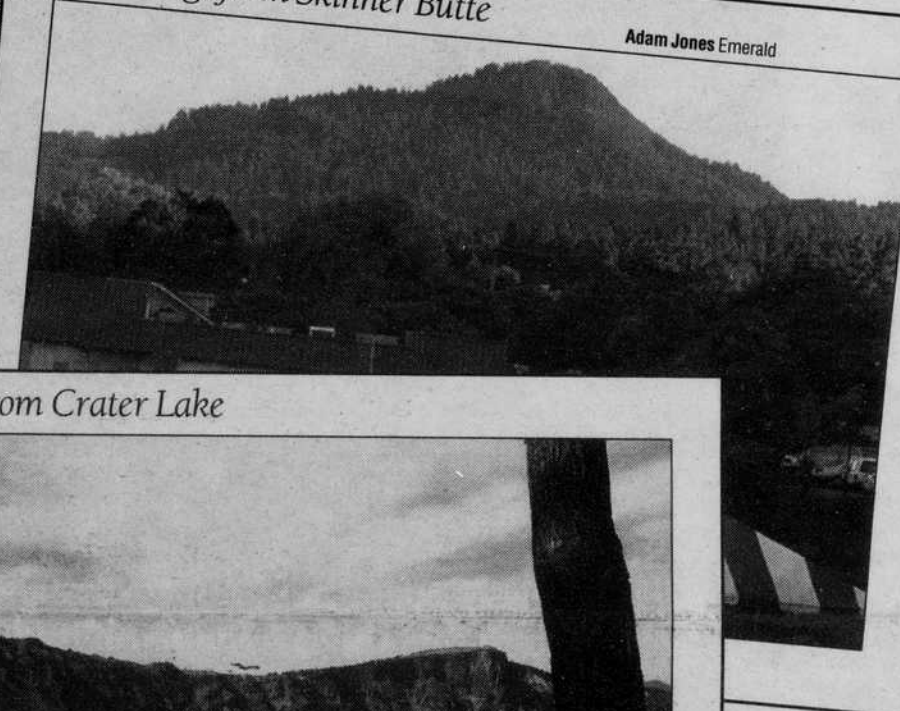
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Greetings from Baldy



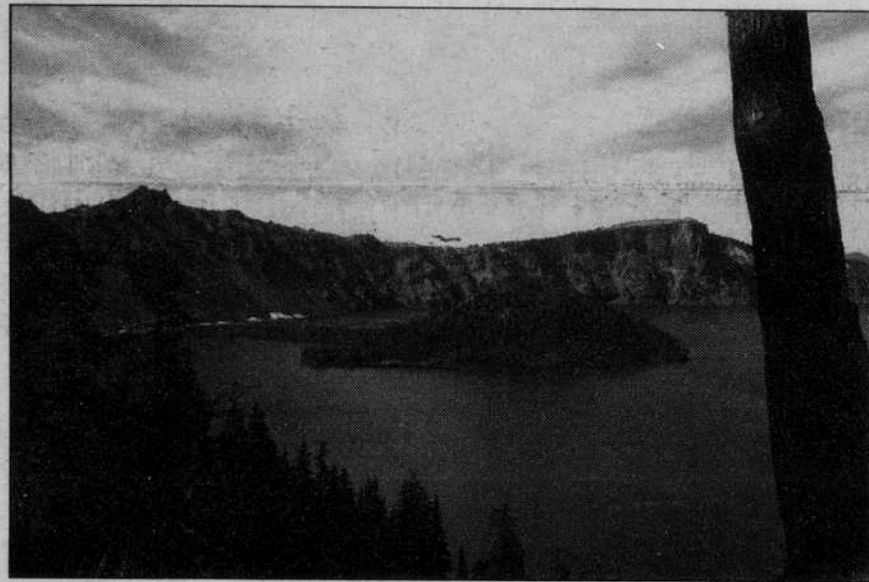
Adam Jones Emerald

Greetings from Skinner Butte



Adam Jones Emerald

Greetings from Crater Lake



Scott Abts Emerald

## Baldy offers relaxation with views of Eugene

Those who have been to Spencer Butte know that the view of Eugene appears ant-like and distant from such elevation, and that the hike to the top can be strenuous on a hot summer day.

The Skinner Observatory, near Alton Baker Park, has a pleasant view of downtown but little else to offer.

If you are disappointed, like myself, by the lack of decent vistas around Eugene, then the small knoll known as Baldy is a place to consider. It has an excellent position on the east ridge of the South Hills, from which you can view the expanse of the southern Willamette Valley.

To get there, take Pearl Street to 30th Avenue, turn right on Hilyard, then drive to the next light.

Turn left on Amazon Drive East and follow it for approximately one-and-a-half miles. From this intersection, turn left on Dillard Road for another mile and a half. There will be a brown hiker symbol on the left side of the road and very little parking, but further down the street is enough room for a few mid-sized cars.

There are two routes to the top, the first being the South Hills Ridgeline trail that runs through a meadow and off to the left. The second trail is less maintained, runs up a small hill and follows the ridgeline to the left. Either way is nearly half a mile up a modest

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Adam Jones

Photo editor

## Let your worries float down river

Getaways are about state of mind. On occasion, it becomes a necessity to leave things behind. But under time constraints, pressures and responsibilities, summer travel plans aren't always viable options.

When it's impossible to remove yourself from whatever troubles are weighing you down, do the next best thing: Free your thoughts.

Eugene has a handful of outdoor activities that can relax, challenge and inspire the best of us. Both are within minutes of campus and take up only a few hours of the day.

### Butte-iful

When things are dragging and people are nagging, escape to Eugene's highest point and take in the breathtaking scenery. At 2,062 feet, Spencer Butte rests among Eugene's South Hills but towers over its neighbors.

To get to the Butte, go south on Willamette Street. It's pretty simple. Pass all the stores, all the restaurants and most of the hills. On the left side of the street is a small lot to park and begin the trek to the top.

Climbing Spencer Butte is a bit of a challenge, even on the designated route. The path winds around the hillside for about two miles. Toward the top is where the fun begins. Rocks line the peak, allowing the opportunity to do some safe, semi-demanding climbing. I've seen parents carry kids on their shoulders, so it isn't that hard. The incline is noticeable, however, so expect to work up a sweat.

The view atop the Butte is amazing but a bit distant. Head to the north end of the Butte to see familiar locations, or stay at the south for a tranquil glance at the valley and surrounding hills. A pair of binoculars would be a worthwhile addition, but even without an optical aide it's easy to recognize landmarks. Downtown, Autzen Stadium and the bright green athletic field at the University Recreation Center all stand out like sore thumbs.

As calming and magnificent as the view is, peace of mind lies in closing your eyes and letting the wind blow through your hair. The climb takes about 45 minutes and the trip down goes by even faster. Bring a couple bottles of water along to savor the time at the top.

### Toss me a cold one

Water and sun go together like  
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## Oregonians celebrate 100 years of Crater Lake National Park

The centennial ceremony of the park is scheduled to run from Aug. 23 to 25, and may feature an appearance from President George W. Bush on Aug. 24

By Jillian Daley  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Glorious cerulean water, 100 years of national park history and President George W. Bush may have something in common this summer for savvy tourists to enjoy.

Crater Lake National Park is holding a public centennial celebration from Aug. 23 to 25, and rumor has it President Bush may be coming to speak on Aug. 24, park spokesman Brad Nehring said.

For those interested in attending the celebration or just visiting Crater Lake, it's less than a day trip away, about three to three-and-a-half hours, depending on the route taken.

Visitors may attend for the lovely sightseeing or just for the chance of catching a presidential address.

However, there is another president involved in Crater Lake's history.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the bill imbuing Crater Lake with national park status on May 22, 1902.

In the late 1800s, William Gladstone Steele was the driving force behind making Crater

Lake a national park. Steele fought for the lake's environmental preservation after reading an article about it in a newspaper in 1870.

The National Park's history is complex, and so is its birthday.

Aug. 25 is the anniversary of the day that Congress passed the legislation creating the U.S. Park Service in 1916, park historian Steve Mark said.

This date, rather than the May 22 bill signing, is combined with the year the park was established, making the official centennial celebration Aug. 25.

On Aug. 23, the park will celebrate its birthday with a public reception at 1 p.m. at Rim Village. Entertainment includes a one-act, one-man play, and there will be a cake, park spokesman Kevin Bacher said.

"There'll be walks and talks and kids programs, lots of different things focusing on the history of the park," Bacher said.

On Aug. 24, a ranger-lead walk will show interested visitors the new exhibits in the park museum, as well as the glorious hiking sites that feed the visual senses, which is one of the Park's main draws, he said.

"The lake is unlike anything else in the world; the beauty is just extraordinary," Bacher said. "It contains some of the clearest, purist and most pristine water."

"Crater lake is blue, blue, blue," he said.

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Brad Schmidt

Sports editor