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Pulse *Excite*

On Tuesday
The White Stripes are still
rockin': check out
the CD review
at www.dailyemerald.com

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Bibliophiles of the world unite to celebrate books this weekend

I don't know what it is, but there's something about used book shopping that I love. I find the smell of piles of books in an enclosed location simply intoxicating. I admit I feel the same way about the smell of gasoline, but to each his own. So, I was excited to learn that the Friends of the Library will be holding the 25th annual book sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds in the Wheeler Pavilion this weekend. Amazing how those annual events can catch you by surprise.

I am, among other things, a total book addict. I think the correct term is bibliophile. When I don't have a book to flip through, I'll read practically anything. I once spent 40 minutes on a "Right Turn Only" sign. I'll admit this probably has something to do with my fondness for the smell of gasoline, but I must say, I was enthralled. Sadly, the people in the cars behind me did not feel the same way and I was forced to move on before I got to the climactic finish.

You might wonder how any dutiful college student can find time to read for pleasure while balancing a heavy workload of classes, studying and writing pithy newspaper columns. It's very simple. All I do is make a list of all my classes, calculate the amount of time I need to study, add the amount of time I need to work, write all this down on a piece of paper, throw it in the trash and read the latest Elmore Leonard novel. One must have priorities.

So I've got about \$20 to blow this weekend on books. Given that I have attended these big library sales before, I generally know what to expect. There will be approximately 20,000 copies of Bob Woodward's "Veil." This is the kind of book that people use as building material. Nobody ever actually reads it, or buys it, or devotes more than half a neuron to thinking about it — but everyone at some point has owned it. I own a copy, though I don't know how it got onto my bookshelf. I think it just formed there, like certain species of bacteria.

There will also be the complete works of Nora Roberts. People actually do read these books, though heaven knows why. I once attempted to read something by this woman. I don't remember the title of the book, what the story was or if I finished it. At some point I just put it down and wandered off into the woods for a few days.

There will also be a table or two worth of books by Tom Clancy and John Grisham. Sometimes when I'm out there in the woods, I wonder how many trees have to die in order to keep these two authors in print. Entire rain forests have been wiped out just to keep "The Client" in bookstores, despite the fact that it does not contain one memorable sentence or a single original idea. I think it has come to the point where supermarkets are giving these books away with every purchase totaling more than \$50. "Here are your groceries, receipt and complimentary copy of 'Rainbow Six.'"

There will be good stuff as well. Pulp horror novels will appear in abundance, and I consume these by the dozen. I know you're probably wondering what the difference is between these and the Nora Roberts pain-parade of cookie-cutter plots and fifth grade vocabulary words. The difference is that in Nora Roberts novels, the irritating, one-sided characters fall and love and lose themselves in sexual abandon, whereas in horror novels they are devoured by flesh-eating zombies. It's much more satisfying.

So for the next few weeks, I'll be wrapped in a glorious blanket of bibliohysteria. There will more than likely be a few zombies involved. And if I'm not careful, Bob Woodward.

Contact the Pulse columnist
at ryannyburg@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not
necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



**Ryan
Nyburg**
Budget rack

On the Rocks to the Big Apple

The award-winning a capella group will compete at the International Championships of Collegiate A capella

Mark Baylis
Pulse Reporter

New York, meet Eugene, Ore.

University a capella group On the Rocks will head to New York City's Broadway Beacon Theater this weekend to compete in the April 26 finals round of the International Championships of Collegiate A capella (ICCA). The 10-member award-winning ensemble received the honor after placing first at the regional semifinals in February.

"This year has been unbelievable," said Tyler Boeh, a vocal percussionist.

Peter Hollens, On the Rocks' co-founder and president, agreed.

"The competition at semifinals was so stiff," Hollens said. "When they called out we won, I think all our jaws hit the floor."

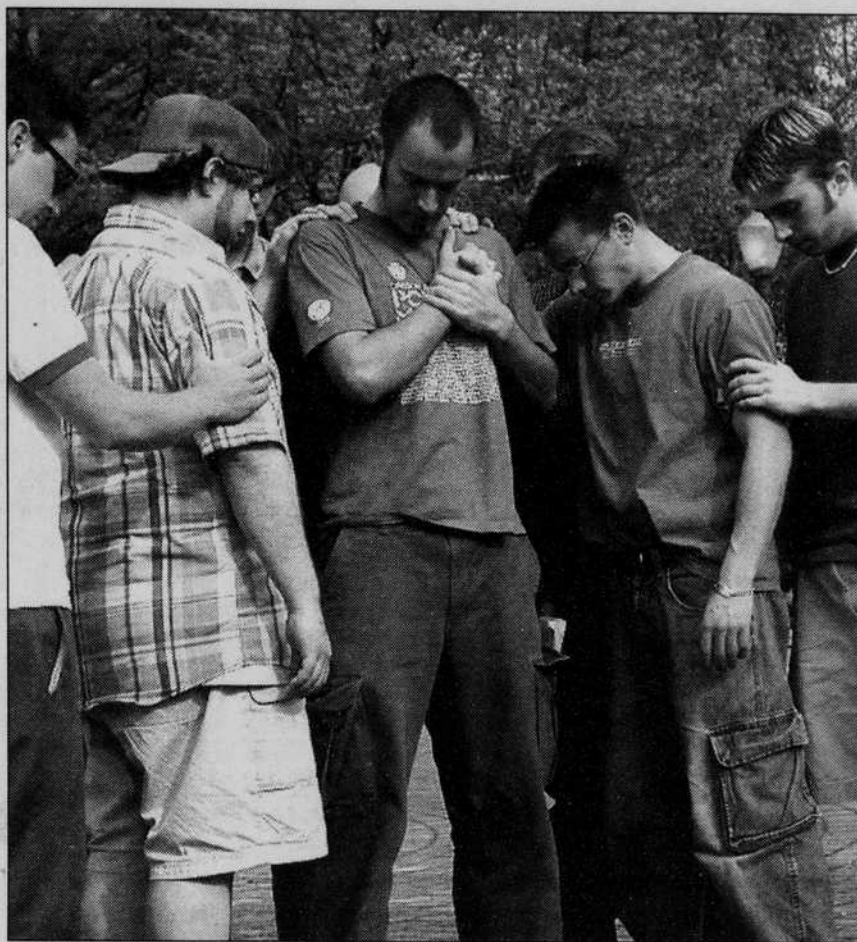
On the Rocks will vie for tops in the competition with five other regional winners from across the nation and Canada. Each group will be given a strict 15-minute time frame to impress the judges. First prize offers \$1,000 and second prize is \$500.

"It's the end-all competition for any college group," Hollens said, adding that "any of the six groups that are going could win."

On the Rocks was launched in 1999, marking the first time in 45 years that an a capella group had called the University home. Since then, two additional a capella groups have formed on campus.

On the Rocks released a self-titled CD, which once topped the best-seller chart at local music store Face the Music. The ensemble has also won a handful of accolades, some from this year's ICCA competition. Hollens was the runner-up for Best Soloist and Boeh won Best Percussion. The group's new CD, "Backgammon Sessions," is due for release May 17.

This year marks the second On the Rocks appearance at the ICCA finals. The group finished in third place last year, barely missing prize money, but members said they had an incredible time nonetheless. The group competed in New York's prestigious Lincoln Center and appeared on a local morning TV show, where they gave an interview and performed a song. Boeh said it was incredible to be recognized while walking



Jessica Waters for the Emerald

University a capella group On the Rocks performs most Fridays at the EMU Amphitheater.

down the street by well-wishers who had seen the broadcast.

New York residents were not the only ones to congratulate members of On the Rocks. University President Dave Frohn-mayer has given the group an open invitation to use his home as a practice space.

"For a while, every Tuesday we were practicing at his house," Boeh said, adding with a grin that "every time, his wife gave us milk and brownies."

The group plays a capella reworkings of well-known modern cuts, typically favorites from artists such as Guster and Dave Matthews Band as well as a few oldies and traditional tunes for good measure.

"(Audiences) eat that stuff up," Boeh said of their choreographed renditions of vintage classics.

On the Rocks members cite every-

thing from soul to rock to hip-hop as musical influences — a testament to the malleable nature of the genre.

"If you have a good voice and a good command over your instrument, (a capella) is the ultimate versatility," Boeh said.

Hollens said a capella's vocal focus makes the music stand out.

"There's something special about just voices," Hollens said. "A capella can definitely be the truest art form there is. The human voice is the most beautiful gem we've been given."

On the Rocks performs every Friday at 4 p.m. at the EMU Amphitheater, unless the group is away at competitions. The group will host a spring concert at Beall Hall on May 17 at 8 p.m.

In addition to Hollens and Boeh, On the Rocks members include students Jeremy

Turn to **A capella**, page 6

'Wild' puts comedy on wheels

Jonathan Demme's
'Something Wild' brings
two people together in a
film that escapes cliché

Movie review

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

From the moment Lula spots three-piece-suit Charlie skipping out on his bill at a New York diner, she has him pegged: "You're a closet rebel." From here on out, "Something Wild" avoids pause for any such succinct explanations of character or action, moving with its own free-wheeling logic from one unexpected turn

to another.

"Something Wild," released in 1986, is the kind of movie that seems predictable at first: Crazy urban party girl (Melanie Griffith) shows tightly wound yuppie (Jeff Daniels) how to cut loose. And indeed she does. But the road there is far more intriguing than you can imagine — and the levels on which the movie works are far more rich. Ultimately, however, the charm of the movie rests in director Jonathan Demme's unflinching instincts.

After the incident at the diner, Lula and Charlie embark on a road trip from the Big Apple to Lula's hometown in Pennsylvania. We see that Charlie does have a wild side.

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Courtesy