

## EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC

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**Thursday:** The Vagabond Opera, Sam Bond's Garage, 9 p.m., \$5

European gypsy music

**Friday:** Cap Gun Suicide, Speedshift, Sweater Club, WOW Hall, 7:30 p.m., \$5

First volume of the Eugene Rock Music Showcase

**Saturday:** Freaks in the House, John Henry's, 9 p.m., Free

DJ freakout with DJ Steve Sawada and the Audio Schizophrenic

**Sunday:** James Keelaghan, Café Paradiso, 8 p.m., \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show

Folk music



### TOP 5 MOVIES

1. "Meet the Fockers"
2. "White Noise"
3. "The Aviator"
4. "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events"
5. "Fat Albert"



### NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLERS

1. Dan Brown, "The Da Vinci Code"
2. Michael Crichton, "State of Fear"
3. Mitch Albom, "The Five People You Meet in Heaven"
4. Dean Koontz, "Life Expectancy"
5. Nelson DeMille, "Night Fall"



### BILLBOARD TOP 5

1. Eminem, "Encore"
2. Green Day, "American Idiot"
3. Lil' Jon, "Crunk Juice"
4. Jay-Z/Linkin Park, "Collision Course"
5. Ludacris, "Red Light District"

## ■ In my opinion



RYAN MURPHEY  
MR. SOPHISTICATION

## Reality shows make appearance on campus

Art is not the reflection of society, it is the very essence of it.

That said, the essence of American society could be described as a soiled diaper full of fish sauce that has been set ablaze and sprinkled with hair. Despite glimmers of hope such as Wes Anderson, Radiohead and David Sedaris, we still live in a country where millions of people sacrifice portions of their day watching a partially brain-dead hotel heiress, or the no-talent teenage sister of a pop star do stupid things on national television. What's more, the University is offering a graduate level English class devoted to reality television. That is more frightening than being chased through an abandoned carnival by a chainsaw-wielding Rip Taylor.

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## PULSEMUSIC PULSEMUSIC

**Riddlin' Kids, "Stop the World":** Sum 41. Blink 182. The Used. Midtown. Simple Plan. Lucky Boy Confusion. If you can perceive any distinct differences between the music of these bands and the music contained on "Stop the World," the sophomore effort from pop-punkers the Riddlin' Kids, you deserve some kind of prize, preferably a shovel to the back of the head so as to knock some sense into you.

The Kids are another production of the pop-punk mill, a band that sounds so much like everyone else that it's amazing they don't just cease to exist in the middle of their performances. Like many bands of their ilk, they have mastered the art of production line riffs, woe-is-me relationship lyrics and vocal harmonies that give the illusion of being catchy but actually are not. They do it all with intensity, as if conformity were the new black.

All of it adds up to nothing more than a testament from second generation Weezer/Green Day rip-offs to the power of never having an original thought. It would be even worse if the album weren't so boring. The band has maybe a year to make something of themselves before the next mindless trend wipes them off the face of the map.

For those of you with nothing better to do, the Riddlin' Kids will perform at the WOW Hall on Jan. 20.

— Ryan Nyburg

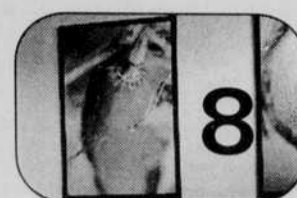
## INSIDE PULSE



The reopened Max's Tavern offers some new features, but maintains its old-time feel.



Local mountains offer some of the best skiing in the country at affordable prices.



The new Marché Museum Café brings wine and gourmet food to campus.