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On their toes

University Repertory dancers will perform at home after months of touring and teaching in the community

BY AMY LICHTY
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

After months of rehearsals, preparations and shows on the road, the University of Oregon Repertory Dance Company is coming home to Eugene for two performances on April 29 and 30.

The eight dancers who make up the company this year have been working hard to prepare for the experience of taking their performances on tour to different cities across Oregon. But the UORDC doesn't just perform to showcase its talents.

"It's developed to give the students a chance to feel what it's like to be in a touring professional company," said

Jenifer Craig, Dance Department Chair and co-director for the tour. "Also, we can take the dance world to some of the communities in Oregon that don't have that experience on a regular basis."

This year, the company has already been on a six-day tour to the coast and performed in Newport, Cannon Beach and Astoria. The dancers also got the chance to teach dance to more than 200 middle school students, high school students and adults.

"Our goal is to go out into communities and teach dance as well as perform," co-Director Rita Honka

DANCE, page 12

Lichty: Babies are the new 'in' celebrity accessories

Continued from page 5

were showing up at the same hot clubs and fancy shindigs, yet managing to completely avoid each other. The truth finally came out a few weeks ago that indeed, the 20-year friendship between these two pseudo-celebs had come to a screeching halt, but the details are still unclear.

"It's no big secret that Nicole and I are no longer friends," Hilton said in a statement released April 20, adding, "Nicole knows what she did, and that's all I'm ever going to say about it."

Us Weekly's latest issue, dated May 2, attempts to solve the mystery of this breakup, reporting that sources say the rift was caused by jealousy from both sides. Richie was rumored to be angry with Hilton for hosting the Feb. 5 episode of "Saturday Night Live" without her. Other sources say Hilton was too narcissistic to treat Richie as an equal, reportedly demanding that Richie hold her bag at an airport after the paparazzi swarmed around her. Us Weekly also speculates that Richie is trying to clean up her image, and Hilton's hard partying ways and scandalous reputation were dragging her down.

But, have no fear Hilton fans because she's already moved on. The newest couple making the party rounds is Hilton and best buddy Kimberly Stewart (yes, Rod "If-you-think-I'm-sexy" Stewart's 25-year-old daughter). Hilton has even gone as far as attempting to replace Richie with Stewart on the "Simple Life" series. But FOX executives say Richie is still under contract, so there's no predicting where this breakup and new hookup will lead.

Another hot new hookup is the rumored pairing of Katie Holmes and Josh Hartnett. They were first spotted together in New York City last month and again on April 12, shopping at

SoHo's Lounge for jeans and T-shirts, but their reps have been giving tabloids the classic line, "They are just friends." Other "just friends" are Oscar winner Jamie Foxx and Spanish hottie Salma Hayek, who were seen having an "intimate" dinner on April 17, according to Us Weekly.

For young Hollywood, babies are the new "in" accessory. With the unsurprising announcement on April 12 that indeed Britney Spears is pregnant, other couples have been put under the microscope. Of course that includes the always-rumored-to-be-pregnant Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, who have been doing everything they can to avoid, yet stir up, some baby controversy. Moore has been spotted with a Red Bull (pregnant women are urged to avoid excess amounts of caffeine), but published pictures show that it wasn't opened. She was also photographed with a cigarette in her hand in late March, but told her rep that she was just playing with the prying paparazzi and that it was actually Kutcher's.

"I wanted to f---k with them," Moore told her rep, Us Weekly reported.

Also rumored to be on the stork's delivery list are Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams, who have been dating for almost a year. It's been reported that Williams, most famous for playing troubled neighbor Jen on "Dawson's Creek," has been taking yoga classes specifically for pregnant women in their second and third trimesters. Her rep says she doesn't know if her client is expecting.

Now you're in the know with the latest Hollywood gossip. E-mail me and tell me who you think will be next to hookup, break up or give birth.

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NEWS 6
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Knuckle Down, the new album in stores January 25, 2005