

■ In my opinion



RYAN NYBURG
BUDGET RACK

Celebrities should keep rantings to themselves

Can 8 million Scientologists be wrong?

In case you missed it, my last column (which explained, in detail, why Tom Cruise is a dick) got a pretty heavy response. I have since found myself suddenly wrapped up in the ongoing and fierce debate concerning Scientology. This debate is carried on between Scientology proponents, who number in the millions, and Scientology opponents, who number in the tens of millions. The responses to my column have reflected this disproportion, with about 20 people writing me to say "right on!" and maybe two writing me to say, essentially, "you suck."

Honestly, I haven't gotten this many responses to something I've written since the last time I mocked Jesus. It's nice to know that during my last summer here at the Emerald I can still rile people up a little before I head off into the Great White North for an extended sabbatical. I'll be listening to some music, catching up on my reading and working some menial retail or food service type job while my woman gets a decent education. A couple of last hurrahs feel in order before this long stretch of nothing comes around. Pissing off a few Scientologists feels pretty good.

Far be it from me to criticize some crackpot religion and its stupid beliefs, but you have really got to be kidding me with this one. People have gone for stupider things, I guess, so you can probably just mark this down as one more entry in the long list of things that are going to send me to an early grave from heart failure. Celebrities' idiotic beliefs have long been a pet peeve of mine. It's not so much what they believe but that they have to talk about it in public. And people listen to them. The opinions of these flashy, charismatic beauties are noted and recorded as if they actually had credence. People listen to Tom Cruise's opinion on psychiatry and believe him when he says that he knows its real history, when actually he knows as much about Carl Jung as I do about Mandarin Chinese, i.e. not a whole hell of a lot.

Britney Spears and Madonna are referred to as very "spiritual" because they wear little red things on their wrists and go in for some bastardized form of Judaic mysticism that offers all the feel-good crap without any of the serious sacrifice. People listen to Angelina Jolie talk about how her adopted son Maddox is a Buddhist when the kid is only three and doesn't know the Dalai Lama from Ronald McDonald. Mel Gibson believes in a reactionary, anti-Semitic form of Catholicism and yet is treated like some kind of Christian superhero when he releases a violent, self-indulgent piece of spiritual filth and calls it a movie.

Occasionally celebrities' beliefs are on par with a lunatic street preacher raving about how God is communicating to him through satellite transmissions emitted from the brain of a border collie named Oscar, yet because they have made millions acting in crappy movies they somehow become authorities on

NYBURG, page 8



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

The weekend before the opening of the Oregon Country Fair, cast members of "The Red Ukulele" prepare Stage Left for shows July 8, 9 and 10.

Traditionally UNCONVENTIONAL

The opportunity to let loose and feel free with fashion happens this weekend at the Oregon Country Fair

BY RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

Once again thousands of people will swarm to the unlikely location of Veneta, Oregon this weekend and fill up an otherwise nondescript field with food, music, dancing and bizarre behavior in one of the largest festivals in the state, the Oregon Country Fair.

Now in its 36th year, the fair has made a reputation for itself as a place where people can let loose, be creative and express themselves in whatever fashion suits them.

"There aren't many fairs where you can meet a giant mosquito on stilts or a bear in a tutu," OCF Media Coordinator Jenny Newton said.

This year's fair promises to be a larger, more diverse version of what people have come to expect. An expanded kids area will offer more for children to do, while the number of spoken word performances has been

expanded to more than 50 speakers, including former Ralph Nader running mate Winona LaDuke.

A few new behind-the-fair innovations are also being implemented this year.

"We'll be adding a solar power structure to the fair," Newton said. "That'll help defer the cost of power and by leaving them running all year we can put power into the system to make up for what we use during the fair."

Getting to the fair has also gotten easier. The Lane Transit District will offer regular bus service from the Eugene Bus Station as well as from Valley River Center, meaning fairgoers will be able to park in Eugene and avoid the \$5 fair parking fee. Amtrak is also offering discounted fares this weekend for select trains coming into Eugene.

Once people have made it to the fair, there will be plenty to keep them occupied. Craft vendors this year include

Ritz Sauna, Blessed Bead, RBI Drums, Dragonfly Hemp Designs and Drift Creek Farm. Food will be provided by such vendors as Nearly Normals, Caravan Cafe, Veggie Heaven, Liberty Coffee and Maty's Peruvian Food.

Of course music will also play a major part in the fair. Main Stage acts include the Kitchen Syncopators, David Jacobs Strain, Taarka, the Zen Tricksters, Jason Webley and Flow Motion. For those looking for more physical performances, the W.C. Fields Memorial Stage offers a collection of vaudeville inspired performances, including mind-reading, acrobatics, magic and juggling.

Advance tickets are \$13 for Friday, \$16 for Saturday and \$13 for Sunday. An additional \$2 is added to tickets bought the day of entry. Tickets can be purchased at any TicketsWest outlet and there is a \$1 TicketsWest service fee. Tickets are not sold at the fairgrounds at any time. A three-day pass is \$40. Children under 10 are admitted for free. The fair runs July 8 through 10.

ryannyburg@dailyemerald.com

EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC

s	m	t	w	th	f	s

Today
Supernaught
Lucky's
10 p.m., \$3
Rock

Friday
Talk Dirty Tour
John Henry's
9 p.m., \$4
Rock

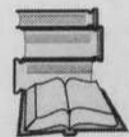
Saturday
Velate
Diablo's
10 p.m.
Call for details for
entrance amount
Jam rock

Sunday
Kitchen Syncopators
Sam Bond's Garage
9 p.m., \$5
Jug band



TOP 5 MOVIES

1. "War of the Worlds"
2. "Batman Begins"
3. "Mr. & Mrs. Smith"
4. "Bewitched"
5. "Herbie: Fully Loaded"



NEWYORKTIMES BEST-SELLERS

1. Janet Evanovich, "Eleven On Top"
2. Elizabeth Kostova, "The Historian"
3. Dan Brown, "The Da Vinci Code"
4. Sue Monk Kidd, "The Mermaid Chair"
5. James Patterson, Maxine Paetro, "4th of July"



BILLBOARD TOP 5

1. Coldplay, "X&Y"
2. Mariah Carey, "The Emancipation of Mimi"
3. Foo Fighters, "In Your Honor"
4. The Black Eyed Peas, "Monkey Business"
5. Boyz N Da Hood, "Boyz N Da Hood"