

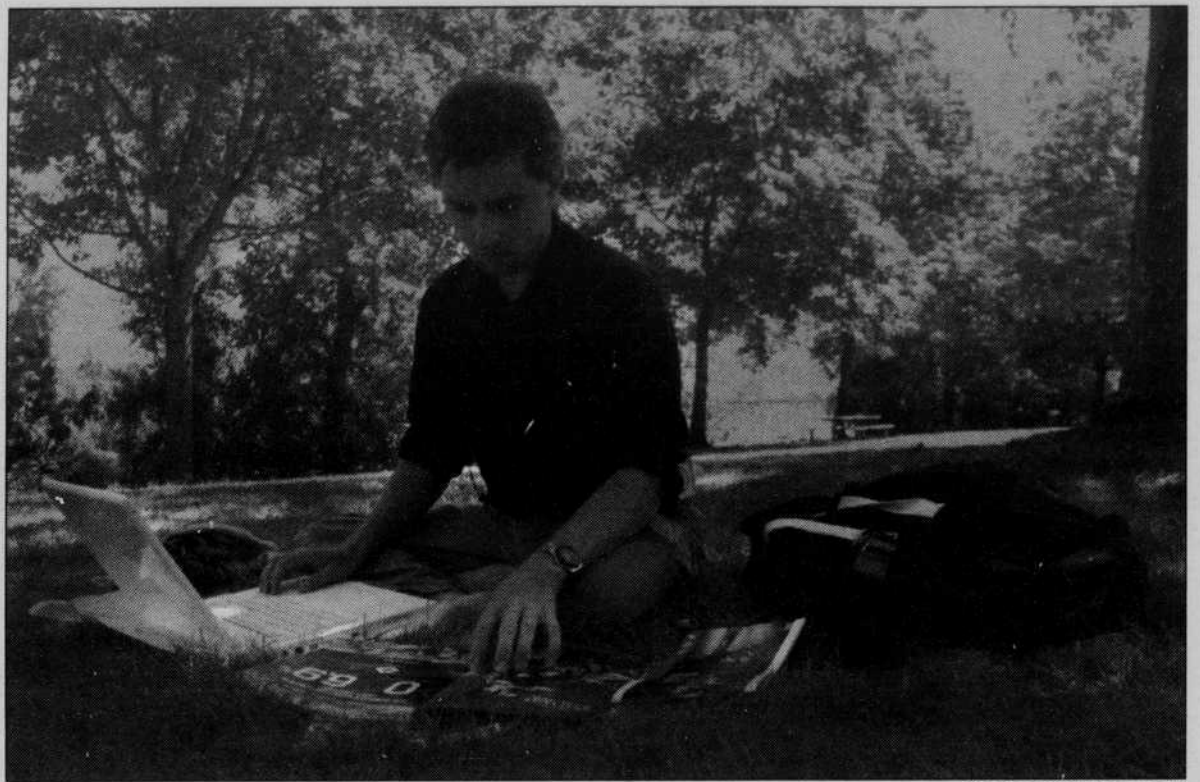
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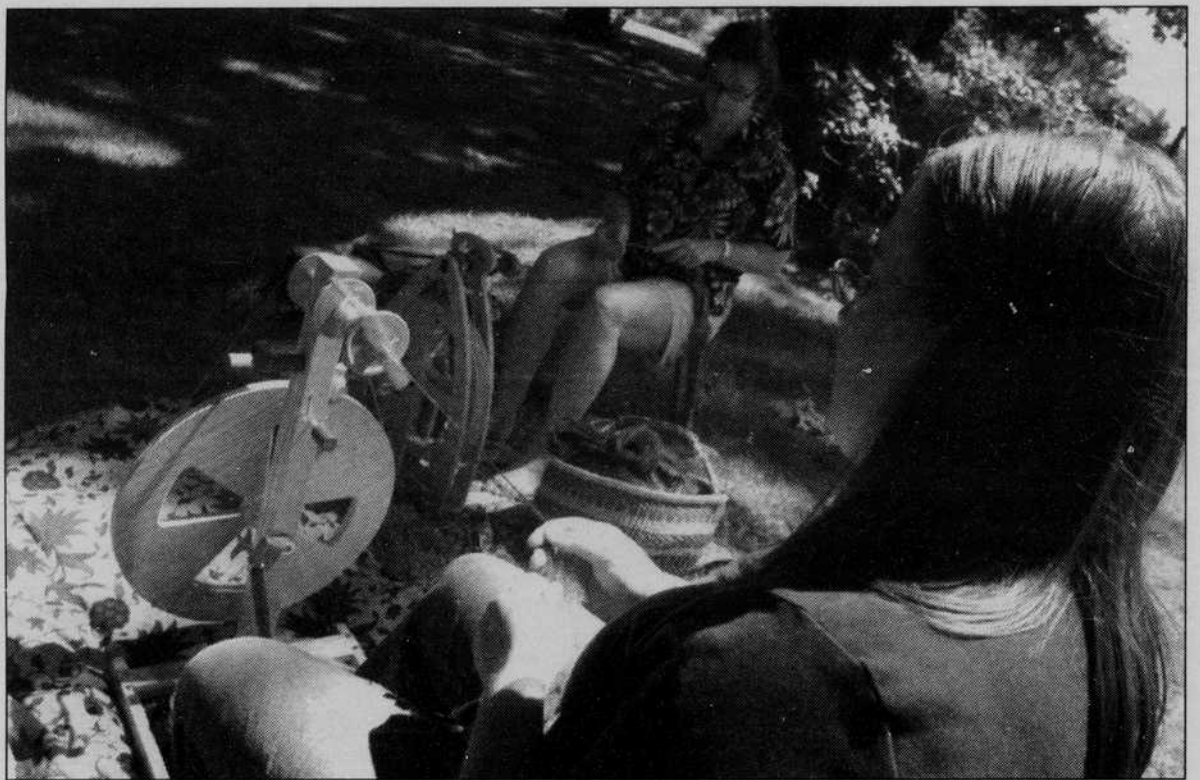
830 Olive Street
 393-0830



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Web editor Anthony St. Clair enjoys his lunch break in West Bank Park near the Willamette river Wednesday afternoon. He uses the time to research a motorcycle he is considering purchasing. "I don't have a car I just have my bike," he said, but added he needs a way to visit friends outside of Eugene. St. Clair does not let the convenience of technology become an inconvenience, he said. "Unless the world is burning down this is my time," and all these devices have off buttons, he said. Clair marvels at how far things have come. He said that even from the park he "can talk to someone on the other side of the world for virtually nothing."

Pastimes at the Park



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Sarah Mostkoff, left, and her daughter Nichole Akins spin yarn near the Rose Garden Wednesday. The two go to a different location every Wednesday to spin. "It's fun to see people reactions," Mostkoff said. She said some people reminisce about childhood memories of grandparents spinning. Mostkoff's spinning wheel is collapsible so she can take it anywhere. She hosts a community knitting circle every Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at Cozmic Pizza.

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IN BRIEF

TV highs (and lows) for the week ahead

"Weeds," a new Showtime comedy about a mom who sells pot in the suburbs, isn't nearly enough fun, nor sufficiently outrageous in busting the hypocrisies of the American dream.

Premiering 11 p.m. EDT Sunday, it stars Mary-Louise Parker as Nancy, the mother of two sons who, after the sudden death of her husband, resorts to dealing marijuana to her suburban crowd in an effort to protect her family's standard of living.

The tart message of the show: Nancy is putting her family first (even ahead of drug laws) as she demonstrates nobility that's otherwise in short supply in her scandal-ridden neighborhood.

Unlike Kevin Nealon, who strikes the right comic tone as a councilman who enjoys Nancy's product, Parker plays Nancy straight — fretful and self-loathing. It's a natural response

to the jam she's in. But for the central character of a comedy, it's also a bummer to watch.

Nancy has every reason to feel desperate but, unfortunately, this is no "Desperate Housewives."

"Weeds" may smoke, but it should have inhaled.

Other shows to look out for:

• A charmingly droll glimpse behind the curtains, "Slings & Arrows" is a six-part Canadian comedy that follows the up-and-down fortunes of the New Burbage Theatre Festival as it battles artistic egos, conspiratorial board members and a meddlesome ghost in its pursuit of staging Shakespeare. Paul Gross ("Due South") stars as a former company member who, in the first episode, is struggling to keep alive his own threadbare theater troupe, while his mentor (Stephen Ouimette) celebrates New Burbage's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by drunkenly

questioning its artistic integrity. The company's general manager is played by Mark McKinney ("New Kids in the Hall"), a co-writer of the series. It premieres 8 p.m. Sunday on Sundance Channel.

• Life on Earth has existed for millions of years, but when did people come along? The origin of humans is a question that only began to be answered in the past century and a half. And when the first bones of an extinct human ancestor — Neanderthal Man — were accidentally discovered in 1856 in western Europe, the concept of a human species pre-existing our own was virtually unthinkable. Then, just a few years later, Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species" dropped a bombshell: the theory of evolution. A History Channel documentary, "Ape to Man," traces the exciting and often controversial search for our ancestral roots. It airs 9 p.m. Sunday.

—The Associated Press