

CELEBRATING EUGENE

The SLUG Queen, food vendors and local music groups highlight Eugene's 23rd annual Eugene Celebration, which begins Friday

BY TREVOR DAVIS
PULSE REPORTER

Lots of food and live music. What else could a student ask for?

Answer: Watching a U.S. Congressman scooping up slug slime.

Students will get a taste of what their quirky city is all about at the colorful 23rd annual Eugene Celebration, one of the biggest civic celebrations in the Willamette Valley.

"This is a special town. This is a special community," said Matt Purvis, who sits on the board of directors for Downtown Events Management, Inc., the non-profit organization that puts on the celebration. "The Eugene Celebration is a rallying point for Eugene to come together and have a blast."

Organizers went out of their way to attract University students this year by revamping the schedule.

"U of O is a big piece of the community. We've made a real effort to reach out to the U of O community," said Purvis, who has been involved with the celebration since 1991.

In the past, the event was held in early September when the school year hadn't started yet at the University. This year, event organizers made sure the celebration took place on a weekend when the University was in session and did not interfere with any home football games.

One of the goals of the celebration is to attract the people of Eugene and the surrounding area to downtown with offerings of food, art and music. "We hope the celebration will be part of the effort that will bring people back to the center of Eugene," Purvis said.

The festivity will offer a mixture of local music — Purvis estimates 75 percent of performers are from

the Eugene area.

"For students, especially (those) new to the community, you can ... see an awful lot of the best local acts in the community," Purvis said.

He said the event would be a good resource for students who want to get familiar with the local music scene.

One of the headliners this year will be the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, a swing revival band that experienced international success with its 1998 hit "Zoot Suit Riot." The band originated in Eugene in 1989. The Daddies will play two sets starting at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday at the City Hall stage on 8th Avenue between Pearl and High streets.

The celebration will also feature local acts such as folk singer Laura Kemp at 3 p.m. on Sunday and The Rock 'N' Roll Soldiers at 7:45 p.m. on Saturday, both at City Hall stage.

The "uniquely Eugene" parade is a must for newcomers to the event.

"The trademark event is the parade," Purvis said.

In the spirit of having a good time, Purvis said he hopes participants create floats with a comical twist. "We encourage people to make their point with humor," he said.

One of the most humorous events will be the appearance of the SLUG Queen, or Society for the Legitimization of the Ubiquitous Gastropod Queen. This year's SLUG Queen is Shandi Sinnamon, a.k.a. Frank



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Julia O'Reilly, the artist for the Eugene Celebration poster, holds her work at its unveiling at the Oregon Wine Warehouse on Sept. 2.

Slug-snotra.

The SLUG Queen reigns over the celebration, typically in drag or in a wacky outfit, and has been long associated with the event, but the queen has no official duties during it, according to Purvis.

The SLUG Queen is "someone with a great sense of humor. ... Entertainment is probably the major requirement (of the SLUG Queen)," Purvis said.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio will be trailing the SLUG Queen during the parade.

"He's got a wheelbarrow and shovel and walks be-

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MATT PURVIS | DEMI board member

■ In my opinion



Celebrity-focused tabloids feed readers' needs for gossip tidbits

BY AMY LICHTY
PULSE EDITOR

All right, I'll be the first to admit it: I am addicted to celebrity gossip. I'm really not sure why — ask me and I'll tell you how much I hate half of those people. But you could also ask me anything about their lives — from who I think is gay to who was reportedly at Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher's wedding Saturday — and I could tell you.

But it really isn't my fault! In a society like ours,

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Coheed and Cambria, "Good Apollo, I'm Burning Star IV, Volume One: From Fear Through The Eyes of Madness": Coheed and Cambria's third album, "Good Apollo, I'm Burning Star IV, Volume One: From Fear Through The Eyes of Madness," is the first half of the fourth and final chapter in the band's sci-fi epic about titular couple Coheed and Cambria. Coheed and Cambria are a pair of parents who are forced to kill their children in order to stop a virus called Sin-star that will ravage the world.

Or at least that's what they say the album is about. After listening to all three albums and reading two of the comic books that lead singer Claudio Sanchez has written to accompany his music, the story feels convoluted.

But Coheed and Cambria are not often remembered for their story. The band has a distinctive sound. They are known for their high-flying guitar arrangements and indelible battle-cry choruses. Sanchez's impressive range has garnered him numerous comparisons to Rush's Geddy Lee.

On "Good Apollo" it seems the band has made a conscious effort to distance themselves from the distinctive sound that set them apart from the other emo-core bands that have blossomed over the last few years. The change is for the worse and much of the album is forgettable.

However, the album isn't all bad. The singles "Welcome Home" and "The Suffering" are reminiscent of old Coheed. The six-minute "Welcome Home" is appropriately epic, complete with staccato strings backing a squealing guitar. Sanchez's vocals propel the song forward as it lurches and stutters to its grand conclusion.

Although "Good Apollo" has its moments, they are few and far between. After listening to "Good Apollo" I did get the urge to toss Coheed's debut "The Second Stage Turbine Blade" into my CD player, but this new release wears out its welcome after a couple spins.

— Andrew McCollum

EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC

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Today

Lil' Bit and the Customatics
The Whopner County Country All-Stars
John Henry's
10 p.m.

Friday

Winard Harper
Luna
8 p.m.

Saturday

Eugene Celebration:
Wisdom, Genus Pro,
Lafa Taylor
10:30 p.m.
WOW Hall



NEW MOVIES

"Into The Blue"
"Proof"
"Oliver Twist"
"The Greatest Game Ever Played"
"A History Of Violence"



NEWYORKTIMES BEST-SELLERS

- 1: James Patterson and Maxine Paetro, "4th of July"
- 2: Nicholas Sparks, "True Believer"
- 3: Sue Monk Kidd, "The Mermaid Chair"
- 4: Dan Brown, "The Da Vinci Code"
- 5: Mary Higgins Clark, "No Place Like Home"



ITUNESTOP 5

- 1: Nickelback, "Photograph"
- 2: Kane West (feat. Jamie Foxx), "Gold Digger"
- 3: Black Eyed Peas, "My Humps"
- 4: Green Day, "Wake Me Up When September Ends"
- 5: Fall Out Boy, "Sugar, We're Goin Down"