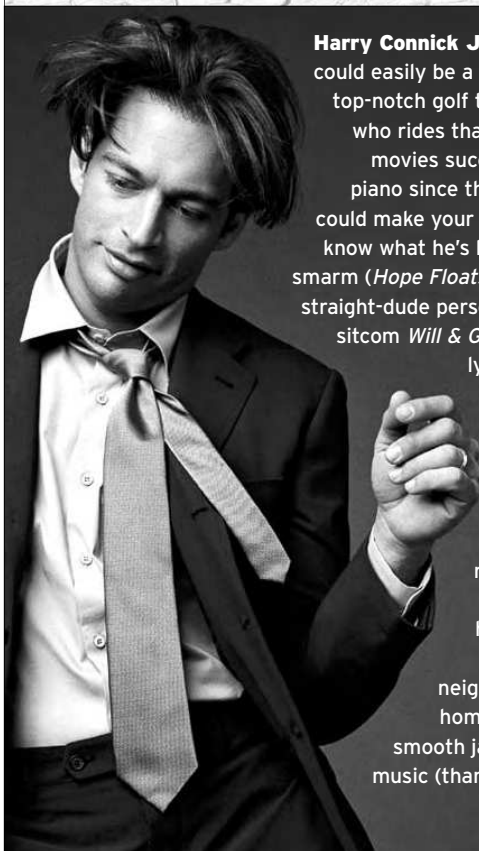


WHAT'S happening

Some who are traveling will be seeing the Franti at his appearance this Sunday at the Sasquatch Music Festival up in George, Wash., but in case you can't make the long haul to that sensory-overload-fest, the Frant-man has you working-for-Memorial-Day-weekend Eugeneans in his peace-loving heart, as he inaugurates the summer season at the Cuthbert Amphitheater on Saturday. Of course, we presume you may know who this Frantsy-pants guy is, with his quiver of Spearheads, but in case you don't, here's a suggested plan. First, get out from under your metamorphic sandstone garden gnome, and second, know that **Michael Franti & Spearhead** make local hip hop fusion jam bands sound like zombies with plastic buckets and broomsticks. With his vegan, antiwar, antishoes, Green Party political stance, Mr. Franti has established himself as a prominent Jesus figure with legions of fans of all styles and fashions – and he's back in Eugene for some protest anthem pummelin' and fresh veggie convertin' this weekend with openers **Blackalicious** and **Reeble Jar**. See Saturday Calendar.



Harry Connick Jr. wears shoes and collared shirts and could easily be a model for GAP (he recently touted his top-notch golf threads). He's a musician-turned-actor who rides that rare horse of mixing both music and movies successfully. Trained on the keyboard and piano since the age of 3, Connick makes music that could make your German shepherd nod in approval. We know what he's like as an actor; he either plays up the smarm (*Hope Floats*) or the psychokiller (*Copycat*) or the straight-dude persona (as Grace's man-friend in the NBC sitcom *Will & Grace*). As for his music, Connick mainly steers the jazz and R&B route with a big band accompaniment. On his Wikipedia entry, there's a section called "Flirtation with funk in the mid-1990s" and, from what we gather on his fan websites, it was not considered a high point. Connick recently released *Oh, My NOLA*, a stirring tribute to his hometown, and has helped create the Musicians' Village in New Orleans, a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood for musicians who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina. He brings his smooth jazz and different kind of humanitarian music (than the Franti variety) to the Hult Center next week. See Wednesday Calendar.



What a long, breathless step into summer this Memorial Day weekend's going to be. Many of us are hitting the road for a much-needed three-day break for doing absolutely whatever the heck we want to be doing. Then again, most of us will still probably be working Monday (in our case: late into the night) and/or waiting tables for meager wages and even more paltry tips. So we guess those folks will start the weekend right, not by hauling asses of gas across the country but by strolling through the lovely Eugene neighborhoods of Whiteaker and Blair for the **Last Friday Artwalk**. There's much to see on the walk if you're fast enough. At Possum Place, Mike Long features his painting and collage work (detail pictured) while Studio B will be staging a mosaic demo and Wandering Goat presents Jennifer Fogerty-Gibson's mixed media. Refuel with a macchiato and keep moving as you don't want to miss Infinity Mercantile, where the featured artist, Iris Porter, and her band The Culottes, will play music at her opening reception. Some newish venues that you may want to check out: Kenny's Pad on Monroe; Studio 54 on North Adams; Eugene Whiteaker International Hostel and the House of Willis, both on West 3rd. See Friday Calendar.