

# Out & about

A&E WEEKEND OUTLOOK

## MID NIGHT OIL

### Rock for a reason

*Midnight Oil spreads environmental, social messages as well as music*

By Jill O'Brien  
Senior Reporter

### Week's end brings culture, chance, country

**W**hy don't we have two days off every two weeks?

A chance to unwind, catch up on some homework, maybe have a little fun or experience a little culture.

You missed the culture part? No, the football game doesn't count.

If you are looking to experience something a little different,



check out today's free show at Broyhill Fountain at 10:30 a.m.

The group "Runa Pacha" — People of the Earth — will perform until noon, Cristina Herencia said.

Herencia, a faculty member in the new Latino and Latin American Studies Department, said the group would perform traditional folk songs and classics from its native Ecuador.

"Their music reflects the life of peasants in their communities," she said. "It tells about their work, their festivals, their families."

It also talks about the past, she said. The six band members are from the village of Otavalo, which means Indian country

community. The people of Otavalo are descendants of the Incas.

The band uses many traditional instruments in its performances, she said. Those instruments include the Indian flute and the charango — a small, guitar-like instrument from Latin America.

Students should try to catch the show because UNL is very lucky to have the group performing, Herencia said.

"They are very popular in Europe, and they also perform on the West Coast," she said. "They were just passing through, and we managed to get them."

The group also will perform at the Nebraska State Fair Saturday and Sunday, Herencia said.

Sunday wraps up this year's fair, but before everybody packs up for another year, there is more fun to be had. Like the Beef Bingo that runs all day in the Beef Pit. Wow.

Also, tonight the Sandy Creek Band helps kick off the Nebraska State Lottery with a Devaney Center show at 10 p.m. Lottery tickets go on sale at midnight.

Saturday's main attraction is those little bad-asses Kriss Kross, who

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The adventures of Midnight Oil's "Outbreak of Love" tour takes the band from the footpaths of the Australian scrub all the way to Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium for a Monday night show with guest band Hothouse Flowers.

New Zealand-born bass player Bones Hillman said fans could expect the unexpected at the concert.

"As Midnight Oil, we do peculiar things. We're not an MTV band," Hillman said.

The band, with Australian roots and a 15-year, nine-album history, features guitarist Jim Moginie, who also plays keyboards; guitarist Martin Rotsey; drummer Rob Hirst; and singer Peter Garrett.

Garrett's gripping vocals cut straight to the hearts of listeners on "Truganini," a song off the new album, "Earth and Sun and Moon." The album is about the subjugation of Australia's Aborigines.

That's right — Aborigines. The music of Midnight Oil is jam-packed with potent messages relating to endangered lands and peoples.

"The most recent thing we've done was up in Canada, up in (British Columbia), in Clayoquot Sound, where they're sort of clear-cutting parts of the last remaining temperate rain forests," he said.

"We went up there in support of the blockade at 5:30 in the morning with a whole lot of protesters and Greenpeace people and we did an acoustic gig. That was the last action we undertook."

Hillman said he experienced an adrenaline rush from the adventure.

"It was the first time we came

face to face with people who were opposed against us. Primarily loggers, loggers' wives, loggers' children, loggers' grandmothers, generations of people who have made money from cutting down trees. That was a frightening experience," he said.

"I was in a different vehicle, but Pete, Rob and our manager were all in one vehicle, and the loggers were sort of like shaking it and yelling, 'Tip the car over!' It was an interesting one," he said. "All these things add up to make a special career."

Prior to becoming the band's bassist, Hillman said he had never been active in the causes Midnight Oil promoted.

"At first, in 1987, I thought I just came along to fill the role as a bass player and backup singer," he said.

"I let everything else develop around me and slowly absorb it in,

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