



La Peña Norte partners Bob Manning and Nelly Link celebrate the opening of their new coffee house at 1236 Kincaid.

New Coffee House to Open

La Peña Norte

Photo by Michael Williams

Nelly Link of the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America and Bob Manning, director of the play "Chicana" this year, are teaming up to bring the community an ongoing coffee house. The coffee house will be named *La Peña Norte* and will be located at 1236 Kincaid. Featured at *La Peña Norte* will be coffee (no alcoholic beverages will be served) and tea. There will be live entertainment ranging from folk music to bluegrass to jazz. *La Peña Norte* will also be featuring local dance and drama companies. Also an ongoing theatre company will be connected to

the coffee house that will be directed by Bob Manning.

La Peña Norte will be a vehicle to share information with the community about the problems happening in Latin countries as well as helping local artists in the community create a place to perform material. If you have a group or just yourself, and you wish to play at the coffee house, call 484-5867 for an audition time. If you wish to try out for the coffee house theatre group directed by Bob Manning, also call that number. Support the rights for people in Latin countries and your local artists. Come to *La Peña Norte* coffee

house. The coffee house will be open 8-11 pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, starting August 12, 13 and 14.

At the Brass Rail

Sex on the Second Floor

The Cascade Balzac Company is creating laughter and fun, upstairs at the Brass Rail, with their two one-act comedies, *Tenacity* and *Me Too Then*, both of which are billed under the apt title, *Sex on the Second Floor*. Composed of Eugene actor/comedians Don Scorby, Martha Wehmeier, and John Duncan, and stage managers Rebecca Proctor and Mike Chapman, the company comments on some of the sexual mores and attitudes with which most of us have to wrestle.

Tenacity, the first play, is a very silly story about a dullard named Oscar (played very well by Duncan) and his manipulative girlfriend Julia (Wehmeier). Poor Oscar is sex-starved but extremely shy, and scared to death of offending Julia. Julia is the proverbial tease, keeping poor Oscar hanging. Oscar's friend Joe (Scorby), obviously more worldly and knowledgeable about these things, suggests a plan of attack. As super neurotics of an age I hope is past, Duncan and Wehmeier were terrific, as was Scorby as the glib but obtuse friend. In spite of some truly funny highlights, however, I found it somewhat torturous watching that much neuroticism going nowhere.

Me Too Then was a better play all around, giving all the players more to work with. John Duncan again plays a bland kind of guy, this time a pharmacist named Leonard. Wehmeier plays Vera, his girlfriend, and Scorby, a natural clown, plays Slat, a burlesque comic who stirs up Vera and Leonard's otherwise boring, predictable relationship of convenience. Slat's irreverence sends Leonard up the wall, but wins Vera over. It's a funny play with some great one-liners, the best of which comes from Vera's parakeet.

The stage has been moved into the center of the large upstairs room, creating better seating all around. The atmosphere is festive and fun. Comic theatre couldn't ask for a better forum. Host and owner Lloyd McKinley and staff join in the fun, making sure everyone has plenty of fresh popcorn and drinks. If you haven't been upstairs at the Brass Rail, you should check it out. It is becoming one of the most popular night spots in Eugene.

Sex on the Second Floor continues Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, through July 30. The show starts at 9 pm, but get there early to get a seat. They've been selling out every night.

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