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Celebrities at NOW Conference

Ellie Smeal will be the keynote speaker and Toshi Reagon the featured entertainment at the 7th annual conference of Oregon National Organization for Women (NOW), to be held this weekend at the Eugene Hilton Hotel.

Smeal is known throughout the nation as an advocate for women's rights. As the national president of NOW, she led the campaign for ratification of the ERA.

Toshi Reagon, already an established musician on the East coast, will be making her West coast premiere. She delivers a variety of music, ranging from blues to rock, reggae to folk. She uses her music to express her beliefs on today's issues, such as children, war, the draft, South Africa, Central America and human rights. Growing up as the daughter of Bernice Johnson Reagon, a founding member of Sweet Honey on the Rocks, provided Toshi with a rich musical and political environment.

This all takes place Saturday night following a sit-down dinner. During the day on Saturday and Sunday, workshops and a plenary



Photograph by Sharon Farmer

Toshi Reagon performs rock to reggae at the NOW (National Organization for Women) State Conference on Saturday, March 3. Tickets for Ellie Smeal's speech, dinner and music are \$17. Some tickets for just Reagon's performance are available at Mother Kali's Bookstore.

session will be held. The fee for the total conference is \$41, or \$17 for the banquet, keynote speech and entertainment. A few tickets

to see Toshi Reagon only are available at Mother Kali's for \$6. For more information, call 343-4267.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Onsen Hot Tubs

Onsen (hot springs) are found throughout Japan, in mountainous canyons, in caves, in riverbeds, along sandy beaches. For the past 2½ years, Eugenians have enjoyed an urbanized version of Onsen at 1883 Garden Avenue (north of Franklin Blvd. near Villard St.). Here, Onsen is a hot tub rental facility offering hourly rentals of acrylic spas in private open-to-the-sky rooms. The service has been extremely popular; owners Dan Upton and Don Knight recently expanded to fourteen spa rooms.

Knight attributes the success of Onsen to thorough planning prior to construction, a tenacious focus on cleanliness and water quality and a strict emphasis on a quiet, relaxing atmosphere (no alcohol allowed).

The two local residents have owned a similar business in Santa Barbara, California, since 1977. "Everything we learned building and operating that business, we incorporated into Onsen."

Onsen was entirely owner-built and designed. "The resulting savings in labor costs allowed us to build a high-quality facility and charge rental fees much lower than most comparable businesses in other cities."

Upton and Knight take particular pride in the water quality at Onsen. "We combine the finest filtering and sanitizing equipment with exact maintenance procedures. Spas are tested and washed between each group. Each spa is completely drained every 2-3 days."

For those rental customers who decide to purchase spas, Onsen sells high-quality portable spas manufactured by, who else, Hot Spring Spa.

RADIO SPOT

KWAX goes live

KWAX fm 91, the University of Oregon's fine arts radio station, begins its "Rite of Spring" fundraiser this week with special programming and special guests. Of particular interest are two live performances, to be broadcast from the KWAX studios. The Eugene Symphony Orchestra String Quartet will perform Thursday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 pm, and local folk musicians will be on the air Sunday, March 3, at 7 pm.

Other special programming this week includes a "Mostly Mozart Festival" Thursday and Friday at 1 pm; the beginning of a new "Lord Peter Wimsey" series, Sunday at 4:30 pm; the Eugene Symphony (with William McGlaughlin conducting) on Monday at 8 pm; and the "CD Showcase" featuring new classical releases on compact laser discs, Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

Station manager Cathy Gilbert hopes to raise \$35,000 for the station's operating budget, with an emphasis on gaining new supporters. Of the 26,000 weekly listeners, it is estimated that only 10% are financially-supporting members.

To become a supporting member of KWAX, call 686-FM91. Memberships are tax deductible.

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