



## The Cashiers Check Out, New Frontier Throws Farewell Party

by Jim Stiak

For three years they've entertained Eugene—saxophone screaming, voices wailing, drums driving hesitant feet to motion. They formed almost by accident, for a party, quickly learning a few songs. Soon after, they won the "Battle of the Bands" over 28 other local groups. But the bell of time is tolling a different note.

Saturday night, at the WOW Hall, they're celebrating the end of an era. The Cashiers have come to a fork in the road, and want to say good-bye with a party. And the New Frontier Market, the old horse barn serving Eugene everything from tofu to TV dinners, is being sold. After 12 years, owner Carey Thompson is ready to turn over the reins to new management, who will hopefully be able to make it more financially efficient, while he looks for a place to try it again.

It seems appropriate for the Cashiers to end with a market party. It was at a party for another market, the Lincoln St., that they were born. "It was supposed to be a one-shot deal," says Marie Mileto, the diminutive sax player, "but we caught on."

They began playing benefits for political and community causes, and the local clubs grew interested. It swept them up, that rock-n-roll wave which has thrown many other groups into the sands of fame. "It was a beautiful experience," says Marie, "but the stuff that came later was real hard, like being in love and living with someone and then coming down to who's going to clean the toilet."

After their initial surge of success, the band made the collective decision to quit their jobs and devote full time to making a living from their music. "It was a struggle," recalls Ope Opheim, rhythm guitarist, vocalist, and composer

of many of the band's tunes. "We were out of town a lot, had to play a lot, and we weren't working on originals."

"We were pretty green," says Marie.

Their energetic manager, Fran Chylek, found them gigs from Washington to Montana to California. But the rigors of road life took their toll. Bill Preib, their first guitarist, moved to Seattle, and today three of the other original members are planning to follow.

Marie, after a few weeks in Europe "re-charging her battery," plans to move to the city on Puget Sound, hoping to land a job as an electronics technician, a position she held at Hewlett-Packard when the Cashiers began. Ope and Louise Jones, the bass guitarist, will follow in the fall. They'll be teaming up with Preib, adding a drummer and maybe a sixth person, and polishing their act for awhile, not trying at first to support themselves from their music, but working on originals and new arrangements of "obscure cover tunes," says Ope, until they feel ready for the sophisticated ears of the big city.

"It was really hard to play

around here," she says. "Many places have closed."

The band members envision a band similar to the Cashiers, but with a lot more originals. "I have big dreams," says Ope. "I might as well go for it, and if I don't make it, then I don't have to 'what-if' about it."

Two of the other Cashiers plan to keep the music happenin' down here. Mary Lynn Boland, the original keyboardist, and David Newman, lead guitarist since April, are forming a "pop duo," says Boland, "to do the lounge scene."

"What I tell people is we're going to be the new Eurythmics," she says. "You've got to have a pipe dream. We're hoping to start playing in late September or October," she says. "We have a 4-track recorder, we're going to lay down drum tracks and bass guitar and background vocals and maybe other parts, do the main vocal and harmonies, synthesizers, keyboards and guitars. It's going to be fun, but it takes a lot of work to put all that together."

"You know," she adds, "I feel really blessed. I could have tried for years and not been in a band that captured people's imaginations like the Cashiers did. Really, it was magic, what happened to us."

## On The Cover

### UO Art Museum's Show

The photograph on the front cover is entitled simply Case #6831/21. It is by South African photographer Sue Williamson. It is among the collection on display at the University of Oregon's Photography at Oregon Gallery in the Art Museum.

Sue's photo-etching and photo-silkscreen prints honor South Africans who are "regarded as heroes in the black community." They include portraits of Helen Joseph, the first S. African to be put under house arrest; Winnie Mandela, banished wife of the jailed African Congress leader Nelson Mandela; and Lilian

Ngoyi, former president of the Federation of South African Women.

Each portrait has a background of scenes central to the character depicted, as in Renaissance portraiture. Intricate silkscreen borders, based on the homemade picture frames Williamson saw in the Crossroads squatter camp, complete the portraits. The borders are made of layers of gift wrap or wall paper, and colored paper cut with zig-zag scissors.

The UO Art Museum is open free to the public from noon to 5 pm Wednesdays through Sundays, except holidays. For more information, call 686-3027.

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