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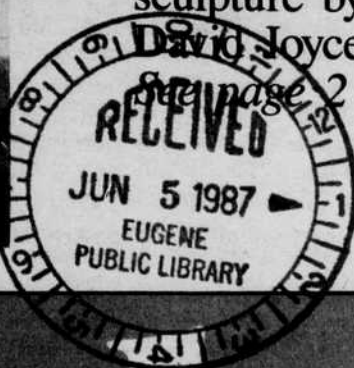
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what's HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts, Entertainment & Events



◀ *Sitting Woman*
is a
photographic
sculpture by
David Joyce



Queen Ida

Headlines the Willamette Valley Folk Festival



Bon Temps" means "good times." So does a concert by Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band. The Queen of contemporary Cajun will appear at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival on Saturday, May 30 at 8 pm on the Erb Memorial Union lawn of the University of Oregon campus. She will also hold a workshop on Cajun culture at 4 pm on Saturday, May 30 in the Fir Room of the EMU.

Zydeco music is a unique creation of the Creole, Black and Cajun communities of Louisiana. (The term "zydeco" evolved from the French "haricot," or snapbean, and is used to denote a snappy dance—something equivalent to "Let's boogie!" or "Get down!"). The waltzes and two-steps of the traditional Cajun music have been combined with numerous other influences: reggae from Jamaica, calypso from Trinidad, American country, and western swing. Zydeco also weaves in dixieland jazz, blues, rock and Latin, providing a distinctive zigzag beat against the joyful, driving Acadian-French melodies. Zydeco is a gumbo, an organic synthesis of cultures and musical styles, distinctively unique for all its diverse seasonings.

Eugene residents are no strangers to this spicy musical gumbo. Queen Ida has been a frequent visitor to the WOW Hall; this is the first time she's played the Folk Festival's stage. The first female band leader in the zydeco tradition, Ida sings and plays button accordion, backed up by the fiddle, triangle, and guitar characteristic of the two-hundred-year-old French Cajun tradition and the washboard, bass, and drums that add an Afro-American Blues element.

Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Ida Guillory took up music after raising three children and working for a time as a San Francisco school bus driver. (Fellow bus drivers remember her as a woman who put her accordion in the luggage compartment of the bus, playing it to while away the hours while pupils went on field trips. "It was either rock or rolling," recalls Ida.) She has since sold her business, been nominated for two times as a People's News Companion, and toured Canada, Sweden and Canadian cities, including Sunday Night Live, and MTV, and has performed at numerous clubs and festivals throughout North America and Europe.

The 1987 Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival is sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum. All concerts and workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Cultural Forum at 688-4000 or 688-4373.