



graphic by yvonne vowels

### Shakespeare

The EMU Cultural Forum is organizing a group trip to Ashland's Oregon Shakespearean Festival for May 29 and 30. For \$26, participants will see "Julius Caesar", "Spokesong" and "Wings". For more information, contact the Cultural Forum.

### Comedy

Comedians Johnny Dark and Barry Marder will be in town Friday and Saturday for shows at the Hacienda Steak House in Springfield. Tickets are \$4.50.

### Electronic Mural

"Electronic Mural," a 55-minute musical/video presentation displayed on a set of mounted color television monitors, will be shown in 167 EMU from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today only. The event is free, and open to the public.



### Silly Wizard

Silly Wizard brings its brand of Scottish progressive music to the EMU Ballroom Thursday night for a dance/concert at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 for University students, or \$4.50 for the general public.

### Dance

University Department of Dance students will present a concert of their works at 8 p.m. May 7 and 8 at the Dougherty Dance Theatre in 354 Gerlinger. Admission is \$2 for University students, \$3 for the general public.

### Shrovetide

The Annual Shrovetide Festival comes to the Dougherty Dance Theatre April 30 through May 2, with workshops, dance concerts and demonstrations of Slavic, Balkan, Hungarian, Cretan and East European arts and customs. For more information, contact Ken Aldrich at 686-3386.



### Grupo Raiz

Grupo Raiz, a Chilean folk music ensemble, will perform Friday at 8 p.m. at the W.O.W. Hall as part of the "Celebration of International Solidarity". Admission is \$4-\$6, on a sliding scale.

### Paul Winter

The Paul Winter Consort comes to the EMU Ballroom for a concert May 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5.50 for University students, \$6.50 for the general public.

### Laurie Anderson

Musician, sculptor, poet, filmmaker, photographer and, most recently, pop star Laurie Anderson will appear tonight at 8 p.m. at the Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall in Portland. Tickets are \$9, and are available at the Portland Center for the Visual Arts at 117 N.W. Fifth Ave. in Portland.

matt meyer

## Let me say this about that

There I was, sitting through another endless roll of credits in a darkened section of a sextuple theater. The lights slowly came up, I kicked my mostly empty carton of popcorn under the seat, and stood up to leave. I took one step, and found myself falling forward. My foot was cemented solidly to the floor by an inch of dried Cokes and Good 'N' Plentys.

When I'd finally freed myself, I went to talk with my friend Quigley, who works for that particular theater. "Tell me, Quigley," I asked, "why are most of the theaters in Eugene so lousy?"

"Whaddya mean?" he asked. "Well," I replied, trying not to offend him, "it seems to me that a lot of the movie theaters I go to are, well, going downhill fast. It seems like half of the sound systems were bought second-hand from Fast Eddie's Car Stereo Shop, half of the screens have

Cokes splattered across them, and all of the theater floors are carpeted in wall to wall goo. What gives?"

Quigley looked at me secretively, then motioned for me to accompany around the corner of a row of broken video games, away from the other movie-goers. When he was sure no one could hear, he whispered, "It's all part of the plan."

"What do you mean?" "Well," Quigley said, "the owners of these theaters are well aware of the economic hardships the folks in Eugene suffer. Times are really tough, and it's hard for an unemployed logger to justify going to a plush theater for an evening of entertainment."

"The owners recognize that, and are doing their bit to help. Rather than make their theaters plush, and make that poor logger feel all guilty, and downright uncomfortable in such a luxurious

environment, they try to keep their theaters feeling "lived-in," and comfortable for everybody."

"Gosh," I said, "what a great bunch of guys!"

"But there's more," said Quigley. "Say you happen to be doing OK, making a few bucks. You feel a little guilty, because you know there are hundreds of people out of work. What do you do? Go to the movies! You'll rub shoulders with those poor out-of-work people, and have a genuine bond with them. You can really feel tuned in to the economic times, because you're suffering through the same poverty they are. Of course, you get to drive your BMW back to your house on the hill, but you've shared an important experience with the non-working class."

"Bravo!" I cried. A teenager, who just lost his quarter in the Battle Zone machine, gave me a strange look. Quigley cautioned

me to be quiet.

"Ssssh! There's more than one movie chain in town, you know."

"Are they doing the same thing for the community?" I asked.

"Oh, no," said Quigley. "They're tied in to the cable TV system in town. See, they figure if they slowly make their movies look and sound absolutely horrible, people will get tired of slodging through the stale popcorn to sit in uncomfortable seats to watch a lousy movie. They'll stay at home, and watch lousy movies in their own homes, which means lots of cable subscriptions. If they keep it up long enough, there'll be no theaters left in town at all."

"The knaves!" I cried. "What are you going to do to fight them?"

"Ssssh! Well, I guess it's safe to tell you. We're going to try to put some romance back into going to the movies. We've started purposely breaking films two or

three times each showing, just to give couples a moment or two in the darkness. So far it's worked out just great. Except for a couple of muggings."

"Wow, that's wonderful," I said, pulling some chewing gum off my shoe. "What'll you guys think of next?"

The lobby was empty now. He just emptied a garbage bag full of pre-popped popcorn into a huge warming bin and grinned.

a special welcome to c. allen rylander, a heck of a nice guy.  
a thousand pardons, please, from angela and annie. next time. i promise.  
bon voyage, o wondrous ice cream testers. so you're gonna make me take all the flak by myself, huh? remember, take lots of socks.  
and last but definitely not least, all my love to the conehe... uh, missa. i think i can slot you in for a lunch a week from monday.  
as for me, i'm matt meyer, and i'm living in a hologram.



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