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# Band scorches Eugene crowd

## Def Leppard burns in heavy metal fever

By Cort Fernald  
Of the Emerald

I have gone deep into the Valley of The Heavy Metal Kids, where young girls ride astride the brawny shoulders of their boyfriends and look like dinosaurs lumbering through the gloaming — and survived. Well, sort of, my ears are still ringing.

Anyone who for a moment doubts the talents of ace heavy metal band Def Leppard should have been in the Lane County Exhibition Hall Tuesday night. This British band is hot — and the pun on their latest album effort "Pyromania" is intended. They simply flashed with an especial fire on stage and had the sell-out crowd mesmerized by the darting flames.

The concert was a sell-out, which hasn't been the case with other bands like Iron Maiden and Judas Priest. Tickets were being scalped as high as \$30 outside the hall — and those tickets were being eagerly snapped up.

I maneuvered through the people haggling with a beefy Polynesian at the backstage entrance. They can't understand why their names aren't on the guest list. I'm on the promoter's guest list, along with two hardcore Def Leppard fans I've brought along to help me focus on the story. But Ron and Ian don't really want to be seen with me — perhaps my hair is too short, or I'm too tall. We agree to meet outside afterward. They are immediately engulfed by the crowd and I shamble to the back, where a concert either succeeds or fails.

The lights go out and people hold their lighters high. The first band, also a heavy metal group, plays. They just take the stage and play. I like the integrity of that, just going on with no fanfare and playing. Unfortunately, because they don't say who they were I can't give them recognition here. I'm not the only one who doesn't know who they were. I ask a giggling girl who stands as high as my elbows what their name is. She shrugs her shoulders and keeps giggling to the music.

A group of girls dressed like sophisticated ladies saunter by. The image is both tragic and comic — they don't quite succeed as sophisticated ladies. Maybe it's the baby-fat.

There's a gang of boys, all in the British flag T-shirts being sold in the lobby, huddled about the shortest who is packing dope into a pipe. The glowing red of the burning dope jumps from one to the other. They catch sight of me. I'm standing nearby with my arms folded, in sunglasses, with my short hair. They edge away as if I'm *The Heat*.

Between acts I sit against a wall and observe the crowd. A hippie comes up and tapes a red cross above my head. Great — it's White Bird Clinic to the rescue. I don't want to move so I sit drooling and nodding my head saying "Wow, heavy. Wow, heavy."

I see Ron and Ian. They're circulating through the crowd, rubbernecking all the girls passing by.

But then the lights go out, the lighters flick afire and Def Leppard is on — not just on — they are really ON. From their first song they just rage, number after number. It's impressive. Def Leppard takes the heavy metal standard from the hands of bands like AC/DC. No, they rip the standard from the feeble grasp of these other bands.

Def Leppard plays with such searing force that they, and the screaming crowd, raise the temperature in the hall to the point that it's practically raining from the ceiling. The cement floors are literally swamped with water.

As Def Leppard kicks into their second encore (following a rousing Happy Birthday for the lead singer) the parents lining the lobby, fidget and glance with pained expressions at their wristwatches.

After the concert I find Ron and Ian slumped wearily on the curb. "How did you like it?" I ask in a shout. "What?" Ron yells back. "I can't hear." I can't either. "What?" I shout. "Great concert," he yells. "That was a great concert," I shout. "Lots of girls," Ian yells.

# et al.

**MEETINGS**

**Interested in Central America?** The ASUO would like to host a fall mini-symposium on Central American issues and invites your participation in the planning. Our first planning meeting will be today at 7:30 p.m. in the ASUO office, Suite 4 EMU. Students, faculty and community of all political persuasions are welcome.

**Students for a Nuclear Free Future** will meet Monday, Aug. 8, at 12:30 p.m. in the Suite 1 EMU office. Everyone's invited.

**The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission** will conduct a public hearing on its proposed fiscal year 1994 budget today between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Springfield City, Council Chambers, Springfield City Hall. Any interested person may submit written or

oral testimony at this time. Testimony collected at the hearing will be considered prior to the time the budget is approved on Aug. 11.

**GERMANS: jetzt wieder Stammtisch** jeden Mittwoch von 20.00 to 22.00 Uhr bei Sheil's Restaurant, 13. Strasse (neben Kinko's), Einzelheiten von Helmut Plant, 312 Friendly, tel. 686-4059.

**INTERVIEWS**

**Campus interviews:**  
Aug. 4 — Hoover Universal (for Plant Accountant — Summer 1983 grads or before).

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Fast for Life Soup Supper and Public Forum** will be held Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 1475 Ferry St. \$2

adults, \$1 children under 12.

**Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration program** with music and readings ending with candles floating on the pond. Please bring food to donate to hungry people. Saturday, Aug. 6, 8 to 9:30 p.m., Alton Baker Park.

**Jewish students needed** for volunteer project this summer. Please call 686-4366 or drop by the office of the Jewish Student Union, Suite 5 EMU, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**The fare for all Lane Transit District bus riders** will be 10 cents on Saturday, Aug. 6. The 10 cent fare day is being sponsored by the Eugene Downtown Association in conjunction with the merchants' "Sunsational Sidewalk Sale."

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