



The cold,
hard facts
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Low ticket sales halt Hult performances

By Michael Duncan
Of the Emerald

The cancellation of singer/songwriter John Prine's performance comes most recent on a list of national artists who have pulled out of performances at Eugene's Hult Center, increasing concern among promoters about the community's support of the arts.

Entertainment promoters agree it is

difficult to sell advance tickets and thus speculate on the success of a show, but differ on the reasons why.

"I think it's a combination of factors," said Carol Baker Tharp, marketing coordinator for the Hult Center. "Eugene is still suffering from the recession, it has been income tax time for the last few months, and situations specific to each of the performers' appearances all con-

tribute to the cancellations of some performances."

National artists who have canceled performances since the beginning of the year include magician David Copperfield in February, pianist Haskel Small in March, comedian Joan Rivers in April, and John Prine, who on Tuesday backed out of his performance scheduled for tonight.

Advance ticket sales are the key indication of how well a show will be attended and are very important for promoters who must constantly re-evaluate the risks involved with low ticket sales and the high overhead of organizing a show.

In every case of the performers canceling their Hult Center shows this year, the reason was simply lack of advance ticket sales that made the risk of not making a profit — or at least breaking even — too high.

Forrest Faubion, promoter of the canceled Prine and guest Danny O'Keefe performance, sees things a little differently than Tharp.

"Eugeneans have developed a pattern of 'wait and see' on ticket purchasing," Faubion said. "If I were to lay blame on any single reason for the cancellation, it is the Eugene public's procrastinating on buying tickets. It's almost become a game."

Promoting entertainment is very speculative business, and the lack of advance ticket sales in Eugene has lead Faubion to take his future shows to Portland.

"It's very rare that I'll do another show in this town, even though I live here," he said. "We have a world-class facility, but people don't buy advance tickets. For me, it's just not worth it."

Tharp agrees that Eugeneans do tend to hold out from buying advance tickets, but notes that sometimes the performers themselves can add to the problem. In the case of the canceled Joan Rivers show, advance tickets sales were strong and indicated a near-capacity crowd, but Rivers backed out three days before the performance because she doesn't perform for "anything but sold-out houses," Tharp said.

What to do about the problem is, as Tharp put it, "the question of the hour." Her major concern for this year is to organize an information campaign to promote an understanding of how the entertainment industry works, with special emphasis on the importance of the role the audience plays in regards to advance ticket sales.



Waitin' for the sun

Connie Tyler and Carol Scheeff optimistically wait for the sun in front of Stafford Hall dormitory Thursday afternoon.

"We hope by the end of finals week we'll have sun," Tyler said. If all else fails, they are considering the

possibility of a tanning salon.

Despite the lack of sunshine, the students said sitting in the rain was a good way to ward off the pressures of Dead Week.

Photo by Karen Stallwood

Therapy usual fate of child abuser, victim

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

Editor's Note: This is the last article in a three-part series on child abuse in Oregon.

Once child abuse investigators determine a child is in danger of further abuse, the Children's Services Division and police officers intervene by separating the abused child from the abuser until mandatory counseling and/or legal action is completed.

The preferred course of action is to keep the child at home and remove the abuser. But some mothers are unsympathetic to their children.

"They are angry with the child for 'opening her big mouth' and complain about having to go on welfare because of the partial or total loss of the abuser's income," says Sgt. Steve Egeter of the Springfield Police Department.

In these cases, the mother will sometimes decide to keep the abuser at home instead of the child, and the child is placed with relatives or in foster care, says Faye Lindemann-Taylor, manager of sexual abuse programs in Salem.

Although child abuse is against the law, the perpetrator often avoids a jail sentence by attending mandatory court-ordered treatment sessions. CSD conducts separate counseling programs for the abuser, the non-abusive parent (usually the mother) and the child. Although the abuser is supposed to pay for the child's

treatment, "that doesn't mean he will," Lindemann-Taylor says.

Counselors employ a variety of techniques during therapy, including aversion conditioning — simultaneously pairing scenes of children with electric shock or noxious smells — and "teaching positive sexuality," Lindemann-Taylor says.

If the abuser successfully completes the program, family therapy will usually follow. If all goes well, the family is reunited in the home. The entire process takes an average of 27 months to complete, she says. However, some abusers are not good candidates for therapy.

"When a man admits he abused the child but continues to insist it's OK to do it, therapy is usually unsuccessful," Lindemann-Taylor says.

Because the treatment program is only four years old, conclusive data on the long-term success of the treatment programs are unavailable, she adds.

The more violent abusers are immediately arrested and jailed, Lindemann-Taylor says. "They usually do six or seven months in jail and then are put on parole. Often these men get no treatment and the abuse may start all over again," she says.

In other cases, violent abusers are put into the custody of corrections and then sent to the state hospital for prolonged treatment.

"We're in the midst of expanding the treatment

programs for mothers and kids, but there are many kids who live too far away from treatment centers to attend the sessions," Lindemann-Taylor says, adding that help is needed to transport children to and from the treatment centers.

In the meantime, most elementary school children in Eugene and Springfield have been visited in their classrooms by child abuse educators.

"SCAR (Springfield Child Abuse Resources) has done in-service education and training programs for the Springfield school district. The children are taught three steps: to say 'no' to anyone who tries to make sexual contact with them, to leave the room or house, and to tell someone they trust about it. The formula is no, go, tell," says Linda Christensen, co-founder of SCAR.

But children not yet in school may not receive this message unless taught by other adults, Christensen says, and in most cases, it is up to the adults in contact with these young children to be alert to signs of abuse.

Possible indications of abuse include sudden, unaccountable behavior changes, a more sophisticated knowledge of sex than seems appropriate for the child's age, withdrawal, depression, and a simple unwillingness to go home.

"We're taking a stronger look at abuse," Egeter says. "The system is beginning to wake up. If you're an abuser, we'll deal with you sharply."