

Band releases tape, looks away from Eugene

The Corps hopes to leave its mark in music

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Members of The Corps, formed in 1985, may not agree on a definition of their style of music, but they all share the determination to survive in a musical environment often dominated by top-40 bands.

The band, composed of four University seniors, recently released its first cassette titled

backgrounds which each individual incorporates in his music, thus causing the lack of an agreed-upon definition.

Huckfeldt grew up in a black neighborhood listening to black music, especially reggae. He defines the group's music as reggae and funk-rock, which results in a uniformed dance rock, he said.

Coleman trained on the cello

people recognize is easy," Chatalas said. "The latest Huey Lewis song, no matter how poorly played, will always be recognized," Mansfield added.

"Bands performing original music in the short run will not make much money but in the long run it is potentially more lucrative, people will recognize you because of your original music," Huckfeldt said.

After playing in a top-40 band, Mansfield said playing original material is a relief. "You look forward to playing this music."

Not only are all the songs on their cassette originals, but their length has little regard for the conventional two-and-a-half- to three-and-a-half-minute songs written for the radio. Songs on "Guys With Groovin' Coats" vary in length from two minutes to seven minutes, Chatalas said.

The band members produced the hour-long cassette themselves using four-track equipment (most professionals use 24 track). The work put into the album has provided the band members with valuable studio experience. "Now we can go into a local studio and make much better use of time and money and get a much better product," Huckfeldt said.

Playing music in Eugene often produces its own challenges. Many bands are expected to play for next-to-nothing many local musicians are looking elsewhere for work, Chatalas said.

"The thing about music in Eugene is that people want to hear it for free and they want you to play your heart and soul out for free, which kind of robs you of heart and soul," Huckfeldt said.

"When people do not want to support local musicians local musicians go other places," Chatalas added.

Because Eugene is a small town with few clubs and a diverse type of audience, many

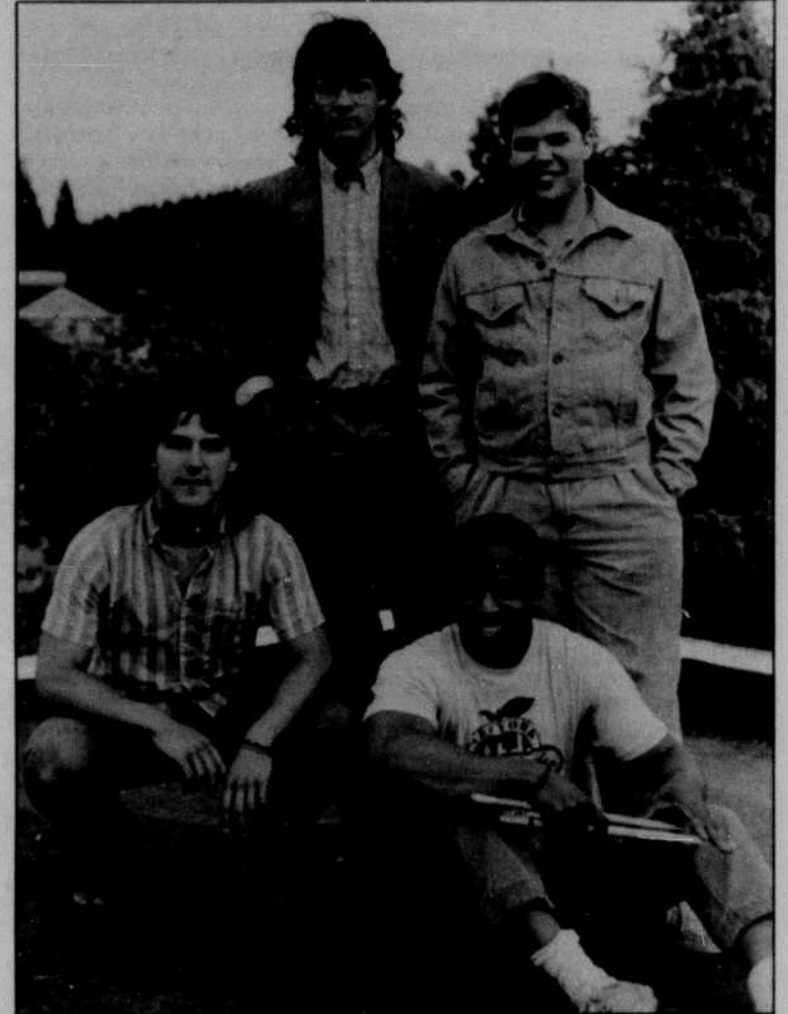


Photo by John Giustina

John Huckfeldt, Todd Chatalas, Edwin Coleman and John Mansfield (counterclockwise from top) are The Corps, a local band with eyes on the future and the big time.

'The thing about music in Eugene is that people want to hear it for free and they want you to play your heart and soul out for free, which kind of robs you of heart and soul.'

— John Huckfeldt

"Guys With Groovin' Coats."

While the title and the cassette cover show four identically-proportioned figures wearing identical outfits the band members are not clones of one another. "You may notice that we all don't have the same hairstyles," said band member John Mansfield.

Corps musicians include, John Huckfeldt, bass and vocals; Todd Chatalas, Guitar and vocals; Mansfield, keyboards and vocals; and Edwin Coleman, drums. They come from varied musical

for 14 years and grew up in a jazz-oriented family. He listened to "lots of urban funk rhythm and blues," and his drumming style incorporates those main veins — forming what he calls Latin jazz. Mansfield also has a classical and jazz background.

Chatalas' influences include Pink Floyd for his guitar rhythms and the Beatles for lyrics.

Chatalas and Mansfield write songs for The Corps and the group members say they prefer original material. "Playing stuff

bands need to look elsewhere for clubs that cater to a wider variety of music, according to Coleman. Band members agree that Eugene is in need of a few more clubs, and especially one that caters to the large student population.

The Corps began playing at local clubs and parties in Eugene and has gained a following in the area. Chatalas sees people who attend Corps concerts in two basic groups. One group goes to the concerts because they are familiar with and like the music. The other group consists of people who

respect the band for its originality, he said.

Up coming projects for The Corps include a video and more studio work. However, Huckfeldt does not believe Eugene will be able to support a band such as The Corps, and they may move to the Portland or San Francisco area, he said.

Even though Huckfeldt may leave Eugene he said he will not forget it.

"I promise not to forget my roots, the town has shaped me a lot, and I will not forget that. I will make sure I do come back here and touch base," he said.

Conflict

Continued from Page 4

register on Sept. 23 by visiting each department's office "seems like a pretty fair trade-off," Sokol said.

Sokol said she will be meeting with Chereck today to work out details concerning

which students will be eligible to register early and how those students will be notified.

Advertisements will probably be placed in the Oregon Daily Emerald to notify Jewish students, she said. Those students will have to sign forms

approved by Sills or the JSU to be eligible, she said.

Sokol estimated that as many as 1300 Jewish students may attend the University, but she said only about 400-500 are expected to register early because of Rosh Hashana.

Noti

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filed a complaint on March 6 alleging the signs were illegal because they prevented blacks from entering the establishment.

Susan Venable, manager of the hearings division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, heard testimony from Russell, Wesley Thayer, an investigator for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, a black woman, known only by the initials "C.H.," and others.

Venable requested that the media not photograph C.H. during her emotional testimony, in which she asserted that the signs prevented her from entering the pub.

C.H. said she attempted to enter the pub in June 1986 to present a demonstration tape of

her band to the manager, but did not enter when she saw the "No shoes, no shirt, no service, no niggers" sign.

"I was shocked," C.H. said, choking back tears. "I've lived in Oregon for a long and I haven't had to tolerate this. I was scared because I was with a white companion and I feared for him too... I was reminded that Oregon is a very conservative place."

C.H. did not file a complaint because she feared for her own safety and the safety of her friends.

C.H. said she continues to have nightmares about the signs and suffers from colitis attacks as a result of nerves.

Masepohl did not attend Monday's hearing. The tavern

has apparently been sold and presently is closed down, Russell said. Masepohl's whereabouts are not known.

Venable will review the testimony and evidence in the case and write recommendations to the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

At the close of the hearing, Willie Polite, president of the Eugene chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said fear prevents more people from coming forward to file discrimination charges.

"That deep-rooted, born fear is what keeps people from coming forward... We cannot change history, but we can better the future," he said.

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