

# ENCORE!

The Oregon Daily Emerald's Entertainment Guide

## Pixies to perform in EMU Ballroom

By Tim Neff  
Encore Contributor

This Halloween the goblins and ghouls will be flocking to the EMU Ballroom for a dose of old-fashioned, guitar-driven madness when the Pixies set up their amplifiers for their Tuesday night performance.

Spotlighting their latest musical triumph, an ominously fierce album entitled "Doolittle," the Boston quartet has toured extensively this fall, bringing their own special rock and roll mayhem to college campuses and small theaters across the country.

They have been lauded as some sort of divine dichotomy. Weaving simple, guitar-frenzied melodies with dark, disconcerting lyrics, the Pixies have somehow managed to remain effortlessly accessible.

But for lead singer Black Francis, the aim of the Pixies' music is to retain listeners while never allowing them to rest easily.

The Pixies had their humble

beginnings with a disillusioned freshman year at the University of Massachusetts. After deciding to quit the college scene after just six months, Francis talked his roommate, Joey Santiago, into ditching school and picking up his guitar to join him on a quest for fame and fortune as a rock and roll band.

The duo found a third member in bassist Kim Deal who answered a classified ad for a musician in a Boston newspaper. Deal answered the ad, which asked for a bassist for a "Husker Du and Peter, Paul and Mary band," because she thought it was "cute."

Deal's friend and experienced drummer, David Lovering, completed the lineup in 1986.

Because of Santiago's upbringing in the Philippines, he found himself fascinated by English vocabulary. The name of the group came as a result of Santiago's continuing discovery of the English language, according to the press release.

"Joey was in the Philippines until he was seven or some-



Courtesy Photo

The Pixies will play its own brand of "guitar-crazed" music in the EMU Ballroom on Halloween night. The concert is being sponsored by OSPIRG.

thing," said Francis in the press release, "and with English not his first language, he has a fascination for new words. He'll say, 'Oh, I like that word,' then look it up and see what it means. He actually wanted to call us 'Pixies in Panopoly,' but we shortened it a little."

With the name of the group established, the next logical step was to produce a demo tape and hope for the best. The group sent its tape to 4AD, an independent record label known for producing gothic dementia from relatively obscure bands. Although 4AD hesitated, saying the Pixies sounded "too American," the label eventually signed the band.

What happened from there was guitar-crazed magic.

In October of 1987 the Pixies released an eight-song mini-album entitled "Come on Pilgrim." The album shot to Number One on the U.K. independent charts and the Pixies were being praised as some sort of divine intervention on the rock and roll scene.

The album's subject matter ranged from incest to religion, leaving few stones unturned.

The group's next album, entitled "Surfer Rosa," was released in March of 1988, and was promptly named "Album of the Year" by both *Sounds* and *Melody Maker* magazines. Sparked by the release of the single "Gigantic," the Pixies

soon launched their first tour of the U.K. and Europe.

This year the Pixies followed up their early successes with "Doolittle." With major label support provided by Elektra Records, the album has been making waves with its guitar-driven savagery, and bleak, discordant lyrics.

Appearing with the Pixies will be Bob Mould, former lead singer for the American punk/folk band, Husker Du.

Showtime is at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at all G.I. Joes outlets, EMU Main Desk, Record Garden, House of Records. Tickets cost \$10 for general public and \$9 for University students.

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