

# FORUM

## Ticket prices kept as low as possible

By Jason Miller

In response to A.E. Brettauer's letter, (ODE Oct. 10), I must agree that the price of a concert ticket in Eugene is slowly on the rise.

At one time as common as a trip to Rennie's, now concert-going is a special event that most people cannot afford on a regular basis.

As an avid concert-goer and the concert promoter for the EMU Cultural Forum, the student organization that produced Johnny Clegg and Savuka, I desperately try to keep the lowest, most affordable ticket price.

Compared to other activities, the University's concert program is severely underfunded. In fact we have 300 to 400 percent less money than other schools.

This would make a show like Johnny Clegg and Savuka free or no more than \$5. This university, however, has in the realm of \$12,000 for a year, making it essential that each and every concert break even to ensure more concerts of the same caliber.

The ticket price of Johnny Clegg and Savuka was not designed to break students or yield a large profit. Instead, it

was determined to cover many, many thousands of dollars in expenses spent to bring the foremost name in world beat to the University, and to preserve a budget so that many more of these shows can occur.

It should be noted that a cultural forum concert is usually about \$4 less than the very same concert in Portland or Seattle.

Unfortunately, this does not dispute the fact that some people simply cannot afford the price of a ticket. For these people I suggest involvement.

They can volunteer to work as an usher or stage crew for any Cultural Forum concert and see all or parts of the concert for free. Being a senior citizen, this may not be an acceptable solution for A.E. Brettauer.

However, it is an excellent opportunity for students and members of the community to see musicians for free and learn about the concert industry.

I sincerely wish I could discount tickets shortly before the show. However, in the case of Johnny Clegg and Savuka, the show was sold out.

People in Eugene are notorious for buying tickets at the last minute, and the day of the show sales are often the deter-

mining factor as to whether or not the show will be the last of the year.

I am committed to bringing top quality national entertainment to the University and surrounding community. Over the past year the Cultural Forum has produced Grammy winners Alabama, folk legend Arlo Guthrie and the Grateful Dead's Bob Weir with Grammy winning bassist Roscosserman.

With the rising costs of artist fees, University expenses and other related concert expenses, it is unlikely that Eugene will see a decrease in the price of a ticket for a nationally touring act.

However, with student action, involvement from the Incidental Fee Committee and other groups, perhaps the budget for this kind of entertainment could be raised and shows like Johnny Clegg and Savuka could be much cheaper, if not free.

Until then the Cultural Forum will continue to bring the best possible entertainment for the most affordable price, and try to leave as many options as we can for those who cannot afford the price of a ticket.

Jason Miller is the Popular Music Coordinator for the EMU Cultural Forum.

## LETTERS

### Discussions

Some notes on the KRMA meeting last Wednesday:

After a heated discussion on equal representation, agreement was reached on the format of the search committee and the board of directors. It is rewarding to see such a diversity of students and their interests come to terms on what seemed to become an endless, although necessary, debate on protection of interests.

However, it concerns me that some people still don't realize what affirmative action and equal opportunity really mean. Good luck to you, James January, with the further establishment of this radio station. Your recent efforts and results are highly appreciated.

This student-run radio station is in the interest of every single student, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that students and especially representatives of student groups be present at KRMA meetings to express any opinions or concerns they might have, and more importantly, vote.

Only with a diverse representation across the entire student body can we best protect the in-

terests of all future KRMA employees and listeners. I therefore urge student representatives to regularly check mail in ASUO mailboxes and students and others to daily check the *Emerald*, especially the Et als section, to find out what's happening with KRMA, your soon-to-be campus radio station.

Philip Hamilton  
Student

### Shades of red

For reasons indirectly implicated in the firing of business controller Jean Ownbey, the *Emerald's* entire Board of Directors, as well as the paper's general manager, should turn three shades of red and resign.

Either the board or the GM should have made sure that the *ODE* complied with minimum-

wage laws. For example, the job description for associate editor calls for "a minimum" 80 hours to 100 hours per month in return for "about \$300." Last time I checked minimum wage stood at \$4.25 per hour.

You don't need a calculator to know what doesn't add up.

The payment of subminimum wages (particularly by a newspaper) is reprehensible and (just ask the Salvation Army) subject to a stiff fine. It's bad enough that this society tolerates cheapskates that pay minimum wages — wages no full-time worker can independently live on.

So, does the "it" in your motto, "We Do It Daily!" refer to exploitation or illegality?

Nickolas Facaros  
Alumni (Law 1988)

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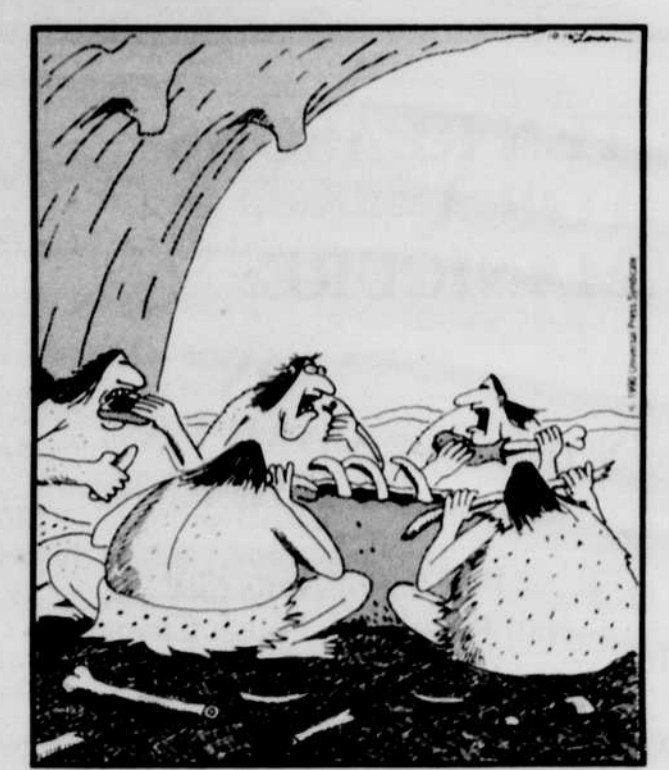
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