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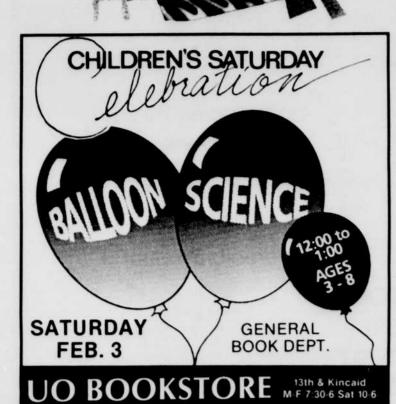
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#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **Blues band makes Southern** melodies — from New York

By Ming Rodrigues

A band named Blues Traveler evokes images of mellowed men with their beatup guitars in tow, crooning about the good ol' days in smoky, sleepy, small-

Then out spring four, post-adolescent Brooklyn guys with their pricey music degrees, calling themselves the Blues Traveler and proceeding to prove their point by packing the New York nightclub scene and releasing a self-titled debut album that's on the cutting-edge of some pretty ferocious blues.

'We could be very melodic make traditional chord progressions, things that were very planned out, but overall we'd play the blues."

-John Popper

Blues Traveler wants to make music real again," said promoter Bill Graham. who discovered the youthful talents and wasn't surprised when the band earned encores opening recently for Jerry Garcia and the Allman Brothers.

"They are simply the best young band I've seen in New York - they're fresh, they rattle their bones and they make you feel good," said the man who manages such acts as the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and the Neville Brothers. "They're from the same realm as the (Grateful) Dead in that they'll always want to be close to the streets.'

Even their critics recognize the resemblance. Declared Rolling Stone magazine: "They've tapped into a Grateful Dead spirit: improvisational, loose, a little trippy. They're a band you can see

Comparisons aside, these are four young men - Bobby Sheehan, Chan Kinchla, John Popper and Brendan Hill all in their early 20s, who just three vears after coming together are now a force of their own.

These guys throw youthful rawness to the wind with their brand of hard-driving blues which one reviewer described

at the EMU Main Desk.

Like all fledgling bands, Blues Traveler had its humble beginnings.

After high school, the guys moved to New York City where they paid their musical dues. They began as a bar band, playing for \$50 a night, until they felt confident enough to convince the own-

'We were just out of high school learning how to live on our own as well as be in a band," Kinchla said. "At 18 and 19, you can sleep on floors and wake up five hours later to hop a subway and get to your next gig - and love every minute of it.

in the upcoming Oliver Stone Doors film, debunks the myth that music theory has nothing to do with playing the

With the exception of Kinchla, who has no formal training, Popper, Sheehan and Hill all studied at both the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York and the Berklee School of

All four members attended Princeton High School in New Jersey, where they began to form bonds that were "like fam-

To pin down the music of the Blues Traveler would be a little difficult, for their sound is distinct, melding inflections of the blues, jazz, metal, Jimi Hen-

as "kicking the '60s to the '90s.

Saturday night you can judge for yourself just how good these guys are when the EMU Cultural Forum presents the Blues Traveler at the Eugene Hilton Ball-

Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for general admission, and can be purchased

ers for a share of the cover charge.

David Graham, Bill Graham's son, caught the group at a Columbia University fraternity house gig and later at a live show at Barnard College Festival. He continued to check out their performances at local clubs before bringing their talent to the attention of his father.

The band, which earned a cameo role

THE EMU CULTURAL FORUM PRESENTS FEAR AND LOATHING WITH

Dr HUNTER S.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28 7PM EUGENE HILTON

GONZO JOURNALIST - CULT HERO

In a career of writing for *Time*, the *New* York Tribune, the National Observer.

The Nation, Ramparts, Rolling Stone and author of Fear and Loathing in Las \* Vegas, among five other books, Dr. Thompson is known for his brilliant

unusual stream of consciousness

writing style. He is the model for

"Uncle Duke" in the Doonesbury

comic strip as well as the

inspiration for the movie,

Where the Buffalo Roam

pecially after Bob, who's a real Deadhead, joined we'd just jam and mess around. Chan and Brendan are sort of disciples of Zeppelin and I was always a Jimi Hendrix guy. Bob's bass playing, well, he just knows how to melt one

drix and Paul Butterfield. The guys share

a reverence for pushing out the bounda-

ries with their diverse styles. Ambition-

wise, they plan to be the first band in

Popper credits the formal training he.

Brendan and I had a music teacher in

Hill and Sheehan had for enabling th

high school who was a real mutant in the

best sense," he said. "We could be very

melodic and make traditional chord pro-

gressions, things that were very planned

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out, but overall we'd play the blues.

band to remake all the rules.

Popper, a bear of a guy who stashes his arsenal of harps in a bush-camp bandolier and who has appeared on record-

From left to right are Bobby Sheehan, Chan Kinchla, John Popper and Brendan Hill

ute of it.'

Blues Traveler, hailing from New York, brings its own brand of tunes to the Eugene Hilton Ballroom Saturday night at 8.

ment capable of complex single note riffs that rival the lyrical quality of the saxo

'We were just out of high school learning how to live on our own as well as be in a band. At 18 and 19, you can sleep on floors and wake up five hours later to hop a subway and get to your next gig - and love every min-

CULTURAL FORUM PRESENTS

-Chan Kinchla

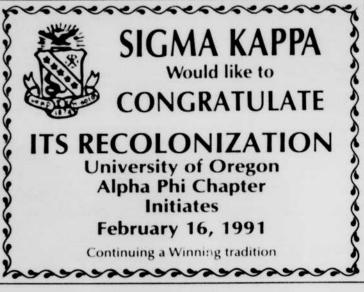
ings with David Sanborn, is known to bring harp blowing to new dimensions

In his hands, it is said the harmonica transcends its usual role of soulful noisemaker and becomes a legitimate instru-

Proving a solid backdrop to Popper's harp are Kinchla on guitar, Sheehan on bass and London-born Brendan on

Opening for the Blues Traveler will be Eugene's own Nine Days Wonder







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## PAUL'S

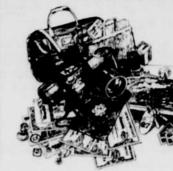
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tional Students Association roffee hour Feb. 22, 4-6 o.m. International students will speak about their countries. \$2.00 donation requested of non-students to enefit ISA.

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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE EMU MAIN DESK: \$8 UofO STUDENTS \$12 GA Friday, February 22, 1991

SUNDAY MARCH 10 8 PM HILTON BALLROOM \$14 U. of O., \$16 Gen. Adm.

Tickets available at EMU

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**Oregon Daily Emerald**