

Eugene to celebrate women's concerns

By Hope Nealson
Emerald Reporter

It started in 1911 as a day to remember the women's labor strike in the 1850s and evolved into an international day to celebrate women and their issues.

International Women's Day will be celebrated here in Eugene on Saturday with a craft and art fair, live music, speakers, massage, food, and an area for children.

Coordinator Roberta Pupillie said it's a day to celebrate women's liberation, with the theme of the event being "500 Years of Resistance Through Women's Eyes."

"It's a celebration of where we've been and where we're going," Pupillie said. "It's also putting out the message that we still have a lot farther to go."

The worldwide event, officially on March 8, will take place in Eugene on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wheeler Pavilion at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Members of the National Organization for Women and the Sexual Assault Support Services are sponsoring the event, with \$1-at-the-door donations going to SASS.

Erin Collier, volunteer coordinator of SASS, said the group decided to help sponsor the event because many of the ideals of International Women's Day fall in line with the SASS's ideals.

Collier said the group's goals, like those of International Women's Day, are to pro-

mote social change and to be representative of different cultures.

Pupillie, a NOW member, said the women's issues of major concern to NOW include sexual harassment, reproductive rights, gay and lesbian rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

"This year is the focal point of all these issues coming together because of the right-wing backlash," Pupillie said. "This is a great day to focus on these things and empower women to keep on going."

Human Rights Commission member Alicia Hays said besides helping the sponsors financially, they will present an award to two women who have been involved in women's issues in the community.

For nighttime activities, a dance will be held from 8 to 11:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Pavilion, which will feature the bands Morgan and Phelan and Venus Envy. A sliding scale of \$8 to \$10 will be charged to help pay for the bands and raise funds for SASS.

Closer to home, the University has activities celebrating International Women's Day.

On Thursday, the movie *Sense Daughters* will be shown in Room 150 Columbia. The film portrays the treatment of women by the Japanese military.

Friday from 6 to 9 p.m., a potluck will be held in the Koinia Center with two women speakers from India and Kenya.



Courtesy photo
Members of Seattle's "outrageous" feminist band, Venus Envy, will perform at the Lane County Fairgrounds March 7. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$8 to \$10.

Venus Envy to play fairgrounds

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Associate Editor

They could be Freud's worst nightmare.

They're Venus Envy — a self-described "feminist, funky, outrageous, silly, original, fun-loving, female foursome."

The Seattle-based band will perform Saturday, March 7, at the Lane County Fairgrounds as part of activities for International Women's Day.

The group distinguishes itself by its rewritten, pro-woman lyrics to classic songs.

"We're definitely spotlighting things from a woman's point of view," said band member Lisa Koch. "(We've made changes) where we thought the words were just too stupid. The vocals are really powerful."

"We like to call ourselves outrageous-feminist-folk-

funk."

One of the group's rewrites includes Aretha Franklin's "Chain of Fools," which comments on America's "Republican-ruled" government.

"She's Not There," a rewrite from a different artist, talks about a housewife who leaves her domestic world and goes on a rampage of sorts.

The band's biggest hit, perhaps, is called "Beaver Cleaver Fever" and sends audiences into fits with the lyrics, "Some of you dig brother Wally. Some get off on good old Ward. But I get hot when I see mama June posing by her ironing board."

The four members, Laura Love, Linda Noel Schierman, Linda Severt and Koch, all write lyrics and play one or more instruments, Koch said. Before getting together two

years ago, they all performed solo.

Love performed in Seattle venues with her rock band, Boom Boom B.I., before joining Venus Envy. Her latest CD is called *Z-Therapy*. Schierman played street fairs and Pike Place Market with her a cappella duo, Raw Sugar.

Koch is an actor and musical performer who has recorded a children's album titled *Shakin' Loose with Mother Goose* and has acted in Seattle theaters. Severt, the band's drummer, is a professional juggler and actress who also is a member of the trio Modern Fabrics.

Venus Envy plays college gigs and local bars and has one holiday cassette out called *I'll be a Homo for*

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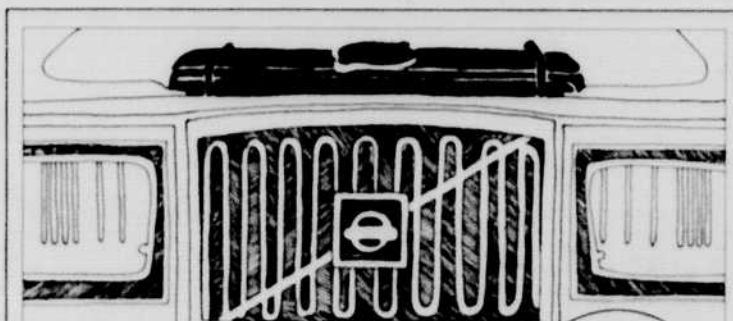
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