

# Violent Femmes hit Corvallis Friday

By Lisa Millegan  
Emerald Associate Editor

The band has only three members, but concert after concert the Violent Femmes usually manage to whip their audiences into a frenzy.

Read this description from the Nov. 7 *New York Times*: "Halfway through the first song, writhing euphoric bodies were being passed overhead. By the last song, 'Add it Up' from the Femmes' 1982 debut album, people were stripping off their clothes and throwing them on stage."

Or this 1989 *Rolling Stone* review of a three-group Illinois concert: "It was clear the crowd had come for the Violent Femmes, whose dynamic set generated enthusiasm verging on hysteria."

This hysteria-producing band will perform to a sold-out crowd at Portland's Fox Theater tonight, but tickets are still available for their Friday night Corvallis show.

That concert begins at 8 p.m. at Oregon State University's McAlexander Field House, between 15th and Jefferson streets.

The road to fame for the Violent Femmes began in 1981 when the Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde spotted them on a sidewalk outside a Milwaukee drugstore.

The group, whose name was fashioned by Femmes bassist Brian Ritchie from an old high school locker room insult, had been playing mostly punkish

**'We didn't want Why Do Birds Sing? to be careful and sound produced, but we wanted it to be a little more contained than 3'**

— Gordon Gano,  
Violent Femmes singer-guitarist

music with a country twist. Their first platinum-selling album, titled *Violent Femmes*, gained them a devoted following with such songs as "Blister in the Sun."

Dealing with thwarted sexual fantasies and adolescent frustrations, the Femmes' songs gained an instant audience with high school and college students.

"We try to subvert reality through music," said Ritchie, explaining the album to *Rolling Stone* in 1983.

Subsequent releases have included *Hallowed Ground*, *The Blind Leading the Naked* and *3*.

Singer-guitarist Gordon Gano, bassist Ritchie and drummer Victor DeLorenzo's newest album, released last year, is *Why Do Birds Sing?*

"This is a real Violent Femmes album," Gano said. "We didn't want this album to be careful and sound produced, but we wanted it to be a little more contained than *3*. *Why Do*

*Birds Sing?* combines those two processes."

The album's lead single "American Music," which tells the tongue-in-cheek tale of a drug-abusing loner, has received play on national radio stations and MTV.

Other songs "Girl Trouble," "Life Is A Scream" and "Flamingo Baby" are previously unrecorded numbers the Femmes have played for years on tour.

A remake of Culture Club's "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?" complete with rewritten lyrics features the sounds of bouzouki, a mandolin-like Greek string instrument.

The Femmes started their tour last spring with some shows on the East Coast. After that, they performed in England and Australia before traveling back to finish up their tour of the United States.

The two Oregon shows are among the last the trio will give before returning to their respective homes in May. Sharon Liveton, director of publicity for the Femmes' label, Slash Records, said the group has sold out at nearly every stop on their concert tour.

Liveton said the Femmes usually play a mixture of their old and new material.

Tickets for the Corvallis show are \$15. For more information, call the Oregon State Memorial Union Program Council Office at 737-6872.

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**Towards a Definition of Gay and Lesbian Literature in Latin America.**  
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**Gay and Lesbian Rights in the Nineties.**  
Public lecture by Mary Dunlap. • 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. 129 Law School.  
Dr. Dunlap teaches and writes about gay/lesbian civil rights. Until recently, she was in private law practice with emphasis on civil rights litigation.

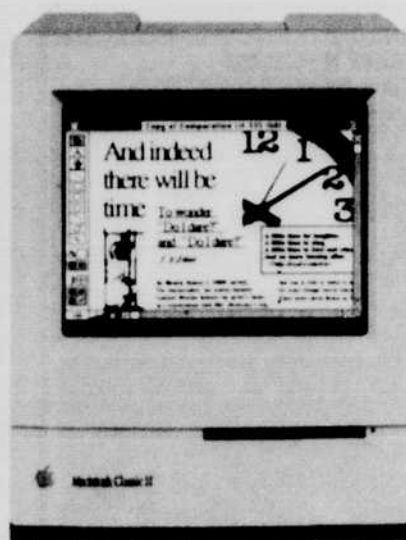
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