



Gotta Lovett

Katy Moeller
Emerald Contributor

Lyle Lovett has done it again. *Joshua Judges Ruth* is his latest album and he is currently on promotional tour that will bring him to the Hult Center Monday, Nov. 9.

His latest album is the fourth in a series of very successful albums that include the 1989 Grammy Award winning *Lyle Lovett and his Large Band*. Lovett's music and lyrics have been described by music critics and fans as "quirky" and "bent," but he has been lauded for his originality. And he is original.

Although he hails from Houston and recorded his first three albums in Nashville, Lovett does not produce strictly "country" music. *Joshua Judges Ruth* highlights his talent for gospel music with the song "The Church." It is a humorous song about his desire to go eat dinner during a long sermon at a church. In this song, as well as many others, Lovett combines music style, lyrical wit and his experiences growing up in the South to create a piece that seems to transport the listener through time and space.

Lovett is unique not only for playing music that combines country, gospel, be-bop, blues, folk, blues and big band, but also for his very original sense of humor. In *Joshua Judges Ruth*, the song "Since the Last Time" is written from the perspective of a dead man at his funeral. The dead man is happy because he gets to see all the people he hasn't seen since the last time somebody died.

Although there is always a strong element of Lovett's unique brand of humor, in his latest album Lovett has a definite preoccupation with death, religion and broken hearts. Lovett is a storyteller of sorts and he is very adept at bringing the people in his songs to life.

Lyle Lovett comes to Eugene's Hult Center Nov. 9.



Renegades in the Beer Garden

Eugenians will be delighted to hear that The Renegade Saints will be appearing at two University hot spots. They will play at the EMU Beer Gardens tonight and then open for The Strangers at Good Times on Thursday, Nov. 12.

A local group that is less than a year old, The Renegade Saints are quickly moving up

and out and has just finished a tour of the western states. Their music is danceable, ranges from high to low energy and includes deeply felt improvisational grooves.

At the Beer Gardens tonight, the Renegade Saints will be playing what bass player Dave Coey calls "Bohemian Boogie Grind." In performance they portray a blues-rock attitude

that weaves coherent threads of style and identity, but the arrangements themselves defy the bounds of genre.

The band has produced more than 100 original songs and was chosen to open for Bob Dylan at the Hult Center.

The Beer Gardens opens at 4:30 p.m., and the band starts at 5 p.m.

Letting loose with dance

By Freya Horn
Entertainment Editor

When Linda A. Howells lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, she discovered a different approach to the dance club scene at an event called Barefoot Boogie. Since then it has been her "dream project" to do something similar, yet better.

Now, after nearly a year of brainstorming and organizing, Howells has made her dream a reality with "DanceJam!"

"It's the only thing of its kind happening in Eugene right now," she said.

Not a bar and not an aerobics class, "DanceJam!" takes the best qualities of both to create a unique place to play, sweat, socialize and boogie. The lights are low and the music is loud, so it offers an environment where people can feel uninhibited without drugs or alcohol, Howells said.

"Most of the time we let the mind determine how the body moves," she said. "The purpose of 'DanceJam!' is to shut the mind off to allow freedom of expression and freedom of movement." She said people can gain a sense of well-being through this spontaneous, unguarded movement.

In addition, it is a great way to get a weekly workout. Howells said. She draws from a collection of at least 300 compact disks to create a musical mixture that ranges from 1960s psychedelic to the latest funk. She also draws upon her background as a certified aerobics instructor to arrange the music in a way that resembles an exercise format. The music begins melodic and slow to allow a warm-up time to stretch. Then it rocks hard for about two hours, and finally a cool-down period brings it to a close.

Howells moved to Eugene in June and began looking for possible locations for "DanceJam!" The Cate Auditorium where 18th Avenue dead-ends into



Linda A. Howells created "DanceJam!" to bring the best components of bar dancing and aerobics together for a fun and healthy atmosphere.

Agate Street offered the best option. Her proposal was accepted by the University's public affairs office, and DanceJam! was launched three weeks ago.

Howells said she is "fortunate" to be able to rent the space. It has a spacious dance floor that is one of the few remaining floated wood floors in Eugene, and these floors are ideal, she said, because they were designed for dancing. Cate Auditorium also feels roomy with its high ceilings and has a good sound system, dimming lights and comfortable seats.

Howells said her vision of "DanceJam!" is a "community of people who love to move, dance and play freely to music," and she hopes people make it a part of their weekly schedule.

"DanceJam!" is every Wednesday night from 7:30 to 10 and costs \$3 to cover the space rental. Look for the purple banners at Cate Auditorium in Agate Hall at 18th and Agate.

SEX

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her boyfriend — beginning with "Dear Johnny" and ending, appropriately, with "Dear John" — from a racy journal of global beddings in the Henry Miller-D.H. Lawrence vein: from the Ritz in Cannes to the American Hamptons — Dita does some pretty classy spots. The remainder of the text — mouthy side-scribbles (vaguely akin to bathroom graffiti) and short essays (why girls should read *Playboy*; tips on better phone-sex) — are cheesy fun, chock full of catchy Madonnaisms like, "Everyone is a sucker for garter belts."

But again, the scrap-book style splits our attention; words and pix just don't align. A better layout might have separate sections, first text and then photos. Even *Penthouse* is savvy enough to run "Forum" in front and photospreads near the back.

The one merit badge *Sex* does deserve hinges on the author's celebrity status: the

fact is, she is the most known person on this planet, and she's laying out her own fantasies, right in your face. So maybe she is tad worthy of her self-appointed title as Goddess of Free Thought. (While well-intentioned, Madonna would probably find the "Love Sees No Color" slogan-T's as somewhat restrictive; Sex sees no color, no gender, no city ordinance.)

Madonna has called the book the "long-awaited child" of her fledgling Maverick Company. Sex should have been two projects, two children. It is Siamese twins, joined at the back, bound facing two different directions. And with split sight, there's no clear vision, no erotic accomplishment.

Back at our lunch table, I remember our group couldn't find much merit after breaking the mylar. We weren't getting it. Maybe we need a few more credits of art history. Maybe we need another term or two of 400-plus English. Or maybe we just need a good spanking.

Hippies, rockers and ravers boogied to Idaho's Black Happy

Carrie Fenealon
Emerald Contributor

Forget everything you know about Idaho. Forget potatoes, forget Sun Valley. If someone questions your knowledge on Oregon's neighboring state, reply emphatically, "Yeah, that's where that killer band Black Happy is from!"

Black Happy played at John Henry's Thursday with Now William from Eugene, and Motorgoat from Portland. Those few hearty souls who closed their books and decided to forget about that Friday final were rewarded with a fast-paced energetic show that blew their socks off, literally.

Black Happy used to be a speed metal band but then decided to add horns to their ensemble. This brought them up to a hefty eight members. The band includes a saxophone and two trombones, along with two guitars, a bass and two drummers. Mix it all together and you get Fishbone, plus Randy Travis, plus Metallica.

Don't let the combination scare you. Thursday's con-

certgoers certainly weren't. After the second song people began to move around the edges of the dance floor and boogie down. The hippies, rockers and ravers were all out there.

The band has been touring for almost two years. It is difficult for them to go everywhere because of the size of the band. They have played in San Francisco, Seattle, Portland and other Northwest cities. The farthest they have gone to play is Anchorage, Alaska.

Although most bands shy away from comparisons, Paul Hemenway, singer and guitarist for Black Happy, is proud to have the band likened to Fishbone. "They are my idols. I met Angelo (lead singer for Fishbone). He was really nice and remembered when we played with them before." The band has also played with Mr. Bungle, Hammerbox and Mudhoney. Hemenway said they like playing with smaller, less well-known groups.

Black Happy doesn't know what is in their future. They say they are religious and "put it in God's hands." They are planning to record but haven't chosen a studio

yet. They do have one CD out already called *Friendly Dog Salad*.

Opening for Black Happy was an exciting new band called Motorgoat. Bass player for Motorgoat, Brad Pedinoff, used to be in a successful San Francisco band called Harm Farm, which played in Eugene two years ago at the WOW Hall.

Pedinoff was on tour with Harm Farm in Virginia when he called up Motorgoat members Janet Coomes and Sam Coomes and told them he wanted to start a new band. "It was time to end," Pedinoff said.

Motorgoat has been playing together for about four months. They just recently moved to Portland from San Francisco. Although they like Portland, Pedinoff says he misses the excitement of the bigger city.

The band has plans to record, so be on the lookout for their stuff. The band combines hard-hitting rhythms with an equally rhythmic guitar and heavy bass. Pedinoff's vocals lean toward whines, but the entire sound is full and energetic.



Con Brio, a new faculty chamber ensemble, will give its inaugural performance Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall. Tickets are available at the door.

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