

# A movie in the making

By Jen Ellison  
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Darryl Roberts finished writing the script for his movie *How U Like Me Now* in 1989, he walked into a pawn shop, trying to sell his computer for the funds to produce the film. When the salesman asked him why he needed money, Roberts told him about the film.

"I want to be an actor," the salesman said. "It was the way he said it," Roberts said. "I knew he'd be right for one of my parts."

A year later, after all the preparations for the film were made, the salesman gave Roberts \$500,000 to produce his entire movie. Roberts stayed within the budget.

*How U Like Me Now* is a comical account of the romantic and professional relationships between a group of African-American friends in Chicago, starring Darnell Williams, Salli Richardson and Roberts.

Roberts' ideas for his movie came from watching the male/female relationships around him.

"At the time I wrote the script I was

dating a lot," Roberts said. "I found that women like to talk about men."

Some of the experiences that Roberts heard about and saw gave him the idea for his script.

"I realized that no one had ever done a black comedy about male/female relationships before," Roberts said.

Set in Chicago's South Side, the film is about Valerie (Richardson), an ambitious career woman who knows what she wants from life. Only one thing holds her back — her boyfriend, Thomas (Williams).

Thomas is unmotivated and happy just where he is in life. Fed up with Thomas' passivity, Valerie moves out of their apartment and relationship.

Coaxed by her hairdresser, Valerie goes to a singles bar where she meets an array of men including one that matches her personality. He's handsome, successful, charming, educated and ambitious. He's also white.

*How U Like Me Now* is original with its protagonists. The African-American bad guys don't sell or use drugs, shoot anyone or get shot at.

Originality is also prevalent in Roberts' ability to stay within the budget.



Darryl Roberts (right), writer, director, producer and co-star, directs Spooky (Daniel Gardner) and Thomas (Darnell Williams) for *How U Like Me Now*.

**'I realized that no one had ever done a black comedy about male/female relationships before.'**

— Darryl Roberts  
Director



Darryl Roberts

"I sought out some of the best non-union techs in Chicago and told them what the budget was," Roberts said. "They really liked the script and agreed to do it."

Roberts also paid all the actors, with the exception of Williams, the Screen Actor's Guild minimum of \$400 a day, and all his locations were donated without cost.

The movie was released in 20 cities around the nation between January and April. The videocassette will be released July 28, 1993, from MCA/Universal Home Video.

# Anthems of empowerment

Canadian singer and songwriter Jennifer Berezan is touring the Northwest in celebration of the release of her album *Borderlines* and will play in Eugene at the WOW Hall Friday, June 11.

Combining a lyrical style with a poignant political bite with a blend of folk, rock and urban country, Berezan's music creates a new genre of inspiring and spirited progressive folk.

The album, released on the Chicago-based folk recording label Flying Fish, features an all-star cast of San Francisco Bay area musicians and was produced by Windham Hill recording artist Mike

Marshall. Raised in Alberta, Canada, Berezan started playing guitar in second grade and formed an all-girls rock band in sixth grade. After graduating from the University of Calgary with a degree in comparative religion in 1985, she moved to the San Francisco Bay area and earned a master's degree in earth-based spirituality at the Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality. She also studied with Starhawk.

Berezan's interest in spirituality, social awareness and political activism drives her music. A harsh critic of much that passes for the American way,

Berezan's songs deal with the historical legacy of the women's movement, sexism, homophobia, homelessness and other topics that make her songs anthems of empowerment for the dispossessed of our society.

"She filters these concerns through personal experience," according to reviewer Robert Reid, with "a strong, crystalline voice softened with a sultry edge that, if anything, is even more impressive in concert than her recordings might suggest."

Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door. Showtime is 8:30.



Jennifer Berezan comes to the WOW Hall as part of her Northwest tour.

## Top Ten Artists and Albums on KWVA, campus radio, from May 26 to May 29

ARTIST ALBUM

1. Porno for Pyros - Porno for Pyros
2. Primus - Pork Soda
3. Monie Love - In A Word Or 2
4. Midnight Oil - Earth and Sun and Moon
5. Sacred Reich - Independent
6. Frank Black - Frank Black
7. Arcade - Arcade
8. Who's The Man? - Soundtrack
9. Pond - Pond
10. Fishbone - Give A Monkey A Brain...



Frank Black

## Chain Art Project crosses international boundaries

What began for computer artist Bonnie Mitchell as two pages of hastily scribbled ideas has blossomed into an art project that crosses electronic and international boundaries.

Mitchell, a visiting assistant professor of fine arts at the University, said the International Internet Chain Art Project involves receiving, manipulating and sending images over Internet, an international computer network linking universities, businesses and individuals electronically with each other.

Captured Internet images will be on display until June 5 in the Wilcox Hearsh of Lawrence Hall on campus.

Computer chain art starts with a computer-generated image that the creator sends to another person, who manipulates it and sends it back. The collaborative process repeats itself until both parties are satisfied with the result.

The University chain art project began April 5 and continued through May 28. More than 120 people from 10 different countries were involved.

"The project raises a number of issues," Mitchell said. "Who is the

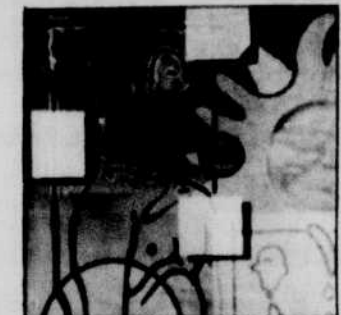
artist or owner of the piece? Is identity necessary for collaboration? These questions begin to look beyond the novelty of transferring files electronically around the world to the potential for worldwide collaboration and visual communication."

Everything began when she asked six people she knew and six people she didn't know to participate. Within a week, she had received hundreds of responses. Participants range from professional art directors to interested computer buffs.

Students enrolled in the Computers in Art course in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts were enlisted as group coordinators to maintain communication between group members and download and print images. The University's Computer Center donated the use of its Sun workstation for the project.

**'The project raises a number of issues'**

— Bonnie Mitchell  
Project coordinator



Several frames of a progressive computer art sequence coordinated by Kelli Noelani Goss.

# Getting to know the grungies

Editor's Note: Associated Press newsman Luis Cabrera is lead singer, sometime rhythm guitarist and primary hypnoterapist for a working Seattle rock band.

SEATTLE (AP) — So who are these "grunge" rockers jumping around onstage, wailing and mercilessly pounding their instruments?

Are they mild-mannered stockbrokers who trade in their briefcases and business attire for flannel and boots at the end of the day?

Are they disgruntled rich kids with nothing better to do than pierce assorted body parts and design their next tattoos until it's time to mount the mosh pit?

Possibly. But most grungers are workaday twentysomethings struggling to realize the common dream of creating music and bringing it to people.

Take the guys in Bathtub Gin.

They've been playing Seattle and beyond for the past three years or so, and they've begun to attract a sizeable following. A cut from their demo tape, *Mash*, is getting steady airplay on one of the Seattle FM rock stations, they've got some fairly high powered San Francisco management behind them and they're beginning to be recognized on the street.

They've even started to see some money coming in from shows and merchandise sales, and have been making contract talk with several labels, some of them majors.

That doesn't mean they're on grunge's easy street, however.

As guitarist and founding member Brian Martinez explained, "We put all our money back into the band. We

don't split it up or anything."

Martinez still details cars for a living. Singer and harp man John Reid does landscape work. Guitarist Jeff Hiatt works as a cook at Julia's on 45th, on the deadly 6 a.m. shift. Bassist and background vocalist Troy Hewitt is a bricklayer's assistant and drummer John Cutler "doesn't do a damned thing. He refuses to work for a living," Martinez said.

The response they're getting now is gratifying, though "you always anticipate for things to go quicker," Martinez said.

The band plays a brand of up-tempo blues that's heavy on distortion and the chunky, twoguitar Seattle feel. It's a hit with the crowds that like the harder edge.

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1. A cellulose acetate base coated with a light sensitive silver halide emulsion in a colloidal suspension.
2. An electromagnetic device used for the recording and playback of visual images.
3. The reproduction of a series of still images in rapid succession to create the illusion of movement.

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