

## A Game of Musical Chairs

*The Stones, REM, Green Day, Pearl Jam and Nirvana had the best seats*

**Chris Metz**

Oregon Daily Emerald

"The more things change, the more things stay the same" seems like an appropriate motto for the 1994 year in music.

Familiar faces, as well as a healthy dose of fresh ones, flashed onto the music scene for their run at glory.

The Rolling Stones moved along, launching one of the year's most extravagant tours in support of their most inspired work in more than a decade with *Voodoo Lounge*.

Speaking of the oldies, the Eagles joined Jimmy Page and Robert Plant as two of the biggest comebacks of 1994. Both acts released albums that were met with great reviews from thirsty fans.

Rock and roll got back to basics as new faces like Green Day dusted off anarchy with its refreshing Sex Pistols-meets-Ramones style of pop/punk.

Hitting the road continued to be popular as Lolapalooza turned four, and Generation X partied like their ancestors did as Woodstock celebrated its 25th birthday in grand style.

Age and treachery met youth and skill with the fusion of veteran rocker Neil Young, and those Seattle poets Pearl Jam burned on occasions and acts like Urge Overkill paid homage to the past as they ripped up the charts with 1970s and '80s-inspired ditties.

Pearl Jam solidified itself as the most important band going with its December release *Vitalogy*, while the Beastie Boys sabotaged the charts with their best effort yet.

But 1994 was a mixed blessing for some.

Nirvana's success had yet to peak when lead singer Kurt Cobain shot and killed himself in his Seattle home in April. A haunting acoustic release of the band's music shot to the top of the charts later in the year.

Cobain's widow Courtney Love and her band Hole claimed their own spot on the charts with an inspired *Live Through This*.

It was another new band, Counting Crows, that breathed new life into the pop charts with the extremely successful *August and Everything After*.

Surf-grunge took shape as the movement's poster-boys, Offspring, caught the attention of many with their release *Smash*.

REM rediscovered its rock tendencies on *Monster* and made plans to hit the road for the first time since *Green* was released.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Cranberries' *No Need To Argue* made its mark with "Zombie."

Stone Temple Pilots and Smashing Pumpkins had monster years of their own with both bands moving up and down the charts for most of the year.

A lot can be said about the past year in the music industry, but one thing is for sure: with a punk kid like Beck hitting it big from his bedroom and a familiar legend, Johnny Cash, being more hip than ever, 1994 truly was a year for acts of all ages and sizes to take a stab at the music-thirsty generation that is the 1990s.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tori Amos released *Surrender the Pink*, which was as successful as her previous release *Little Earthquakes*.

### CHRIS METZ' TOP FIVE OF 1994

**1** Husker Du — *The Living End*. While Grant Hart and Bob Mould continue to swim in the cesspool of mediocrity on their own, this live compilation of Husker greats was released as a reward for fans of the Minneapolis trio and as a reminder of their undeniable energy.

**2** Nirvana — *Unplugged in New York*. Rarely has there been a release that carried with it such baggage. What would normally be considered a somber disc, it turned even darker as it will be forever known as Cobain's goodbye.

**3** Beck — *Mellow Gold*. What do you get when you give an iron-on T-shirt wearing loser a four-track? The third-best release of 1994, that's what.

**4** Green Day — *Dookie*. This band didn't even need to put out a release to make the top five in 1994. But *Dookie* proved to be one of the best pure-energy releases in quite sometime. Hail *Dookie!*

**5** Beastie Boys — *Ill Communication*. Remember when it wasn't in vogue to like the Boys? Well I do. And I'm the first one to admit that I've been on this goofy bandwagon seemingly forever and it's never been this much fun.

## Everybody needs a little fluff sometimes

I have a philosophy on life, and it goes like this: There are certain things in life that everyone has to experience at least once. I have noticed that most people have experienced many of the same calamities that I have.

For example, running out of gas. Everyone will probably run out of gas at least once in their lifetime. Personally, I have made three trips to the gas station begging to borrow a gas can. Maybe I should just make an investment in my own personal gas can.

There are other similar situations we are all doomed to experience. Like bouncing a check (luckily I have check guarantee to cover me), being a victim of crime (I've had a bike and a car stolen, so far), and losing someone you really love (my dad died of cancer 10 years ago).

But there are even more that I am busy preparing. I've been bothering everyone to teach me how to change



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include spending at least one night in a hospital and losing something down the drain. Once I dropped an eyeliner down the drain, but it only cost a couple bucks — so I didn't worry about retrieving it.

As for the latest problem I've had: Losing something in the mail.

Because I wasn't returning to Eugene until Jan. 2, I decided to mail my rent check before I left for winter vacation. That was around Dec. 20.

I left for vacation assured that my rent would already be paid for the

month of January when I returned. No such luck. One day this week I returned to my apartment after school to find a letter taped to my door. I opened it and was informed that my rent was past due; if it wasn't paid in 72 hours, I would be evicted. Needless to say, that was a bit upsetting. But I called the bank, had a stop payment put on my check and paid the rental company the next morning.

The reason I'm writing about all of this is because I often hear that entertainment sections are full of "fluff." (In other words, soft stories that don't have too much intrinsic value to them) I'm not going to argue that they aren't. Entertainment sections were created to entertain readers. And I think we all need a little of this fluff, and a lot of entertainment, as a buffer to the common, unenjoyable things we face everyday.

*Trista Noel is the entertainment editor of the Emerald.*



## 'Peyote Road'

A Civil Rights Group at the University Law School will sponsor a showing of the documentary *Peyote Road* Tuesday evening at 7:30 in Room 125 Law School.

The film explores the religious use of peyote in Native American ceremonies. The film will last about one hour.

Following the film will be a discussion of the topic. Al Smith will attend the event. Smith lost a case to the Supreme Court about the use of peyote. He is a minor celebrity among Native American rights circles. Since Smith lost his case, a federal law was passed, which permits the use of peyote for certain circumstances.

The film and discussion are open to everyone.