

# Rhythm *of* Reviews

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## GETTING AN EARFUL

Eugene's appreciation of local music often doesn't match the talent of its bands

### ALLISON HALL

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

"Eugene is spoiled because...it's been producing great music," said Robbie London, the bassist/vocalist for Unshakable Race.

"Other cities know good bands are coming from Eugene, but does Eugene appreciate it?"

Eugene is definitely not the next Seattle, but people seem to agree that there are a lot of great bands around town.

"Traditionally Eugene has been a very large music scene for its size," WOW Hall publicist Bob Fennessy said. "There's so many musicians, and surprisingly they're good," he said, laughing.

Unshakable Race is just one of many Eugene bands making a name for themselves. And to

have a recognizable name, you must have fan support.

London said their fan base is selective, and he describes them as being "a conscious crowd" that is into their message of racial unity and harmony with the earth.

The Renegade Saints, on the other hand, have an audience that varies from show to show. When I saw them at Taylor's, the majority of the packed house was part of the Greek system. Most of the people, unfortunately, were just standing around, and those of us dancing were given very little room.

Dave Coey, the bassist/vocalist for the band, said the crowd when they play tonight at John Henry's will be a lot differ-



Unshakable Race know that having a large and growing fan base is key to success.

ent. But he's happy with the support in Eugene.

"The fans are great here, for sure," he said.

Tony Sustare, who is celebrating the first anniversary of his ownership of Taylor's this Saturday (free food, drink specials, and the Cowboy Angels "Portland's version of the Renegade Saints") agrees.

"Give them a good product and they come and see them," he said.

Sustare said many of the Eugene bands draw bigger crowds than some of the regional or national acts Taylor's has

booked.

Some of those fans have complaints, but not necessarily about the bands. Many people (band members included) dislike the fact that there are very few bars where you can see bands.

"It's sad the bands don't have good places to play," said University freshman Tom Sloop. "They don't get enough exposure because of weak venues."

Steve Perry, the vocalist for the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, has toured a lot and has

Turn to LOCALS, Page 14



The Renegade Saints believe the fans in Eugene provide them great support.

## Babes capture special night on new CD

On Dec. 3, 1994, a wonderful and magical presence entered and immediately enveloped the chilly room with a sensational warmth.

If you were one of the lucky fans, you experienced this special moment first-hand at the Babes With Axes one-year anniversary concert at the WOW Hall. But fear not if you missed the show — it was recorded. And the energy and excitement of it has been transferred from stage to CD, which has resulted in the Babes' first release, *WOW Live Babes!*

Debbie Diedrich, Katie Henry, T.R. Kelley and Laura Kemp, all guitar players and singer-songwriters, have individual musical careers and recordings. As they separately attack the music frontiers head-on, the four women continue to play together in Babes With Axes.

The band started as a one-shot deal. But for the last year and a half its popularity steadily and rapidly



WOW Live Babes!  
Babes With Axes

★★★★

increased. At the same time each member continued her own career, writing and performing at the local venues. From these solo achievements come the selections on the CD. Playing the guitar, and playing music, has been an important aspect in each Babe's life, as is demonstrated on this CD. *WOW Live Babes!* consists of not only a sampling of the individual members' songs but also a demonstration of their talents — each musician knows how to pen powerful expressions, how to sing impressive melodies and how to pack lyrics tightly with real emotion.

Throughout Henry's "Sometimes a Waltz," bassist Kelley's musical heart

and soul shines. In her solo, Kelley gives a melancholy yet beautiful bass recitation; and with this recitation, an intensity adds to the strength of the already present emotional feeling.

Great bass lines make the crust of the big pie. Musical talent and experience create the flavor and get the juices flowing. The Babes show no lack of musical talent or experience on their CD.

Each Babe has played guitar for more than 15 years, but that is not the only instrument heard on the CD. In addition to guitar, Henry plays flute and banjo, and Kelley plays guitar — on the few songs that she doesn't play bass.

And the Babes sing with a vehement passion, whether as lead voices or voices in harmony. All four women have phenomenal voices, each having a unique sound and style. So, each fares well leading the

Turn to AXES, Page 12

## University Theatre will hear auditions for fall term musical



The University Theatre will hear auditions Monday, May 22 and Tuesday, May 23 for the musical *Working*, which will be performed November 3 to 18, 1995. Joseph Gilg, University Theatre director of development, said the

musical is looking for an ethnically diverse cast and encourages students of color to apply. Diverse age groups are also need, from 10-year-olds to people in their sixties.

The cast of *Working* may also get a chance to take the show on tour to Taiwan during the month of December.

Those auditioning for *Working* will be asked to prepare a two-minute monologue and song. Scripts are available in the University Theatre Development Office, which is located in the lobby of Robinson Theatre. Scripts can be checked out for a 24-hour time period.

For more information, call 346-4190.