

DEAD FINGERS

ALLISON HALL

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

On Monday, while Chuck Berry was jamming through his set at the Portland Meadows, long-time Grateful Dead publicist Dennis McNally led me backstage and introduced me to the newest member of the Grateful Dead, which is in the middle of its 30th anniversary.

Vince Welnick, former member of the Tubes, replaced keyboard player Brent Mydland, who died from a drug overdose in July 1990.

We sat in his dressing room, and he told me that there really hasn't been much talk among the band members about their 30th year together.

"Thirty years? Big deal! Thirty more!"

Welnick offered me a drink, grabbed a YooHoo for himself, and we talked about the previous day's show.

Sunday, the band didn't seem very aggressive.

"Sometimes the first nights that we do a gig [in a run of shows] are temperamental performances," Welnick said.

That's usually because they have to adjust the sound and get used to the venue.

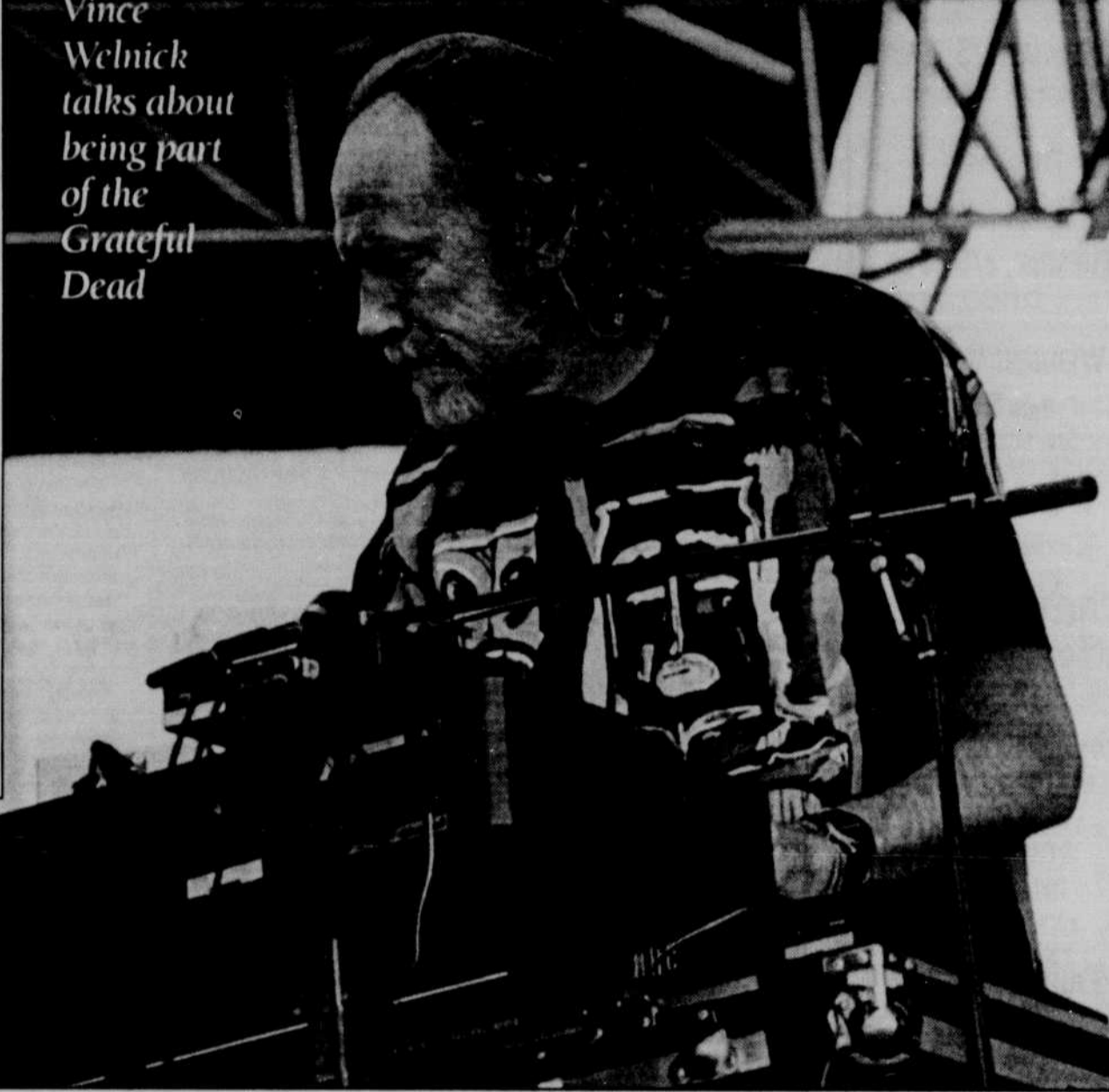
"I've never played here before, and the band hasn't played here since the '80s," he said.

Who Picks the Songs?

Song selection also has a lot to do with the performance, Welnick said. So how do they decide what to play?

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Keyboardist
Vince
Welnick
talks about
being part
of the
Grateful
Dead



Some final farewells and last thoughts

Here it is, the last entertainment section of the year and my last column. And I am, as are all graduating seniors, faced with many goodbyes. Sad ones to friends, and happier goodbyes to Eugene and the University.

I won't hide it. I am ready to get out of Eugene, permanently. And I have been ready for a long time to get out of college. But there are a few things I will miss about this town and the University.

Ruled as I am by food, a couple of Eugene and Springfield restaurants will be dearly missed. Mekala's, with its unique blend of spices and temperatures, will not soon be forgotten, and my cravings for its savory creations may never end.

And I will really miss Szechuan Terrace and the nice woman who runs it. Chinese food can be so good, and the people at Szechuan Terrace know what they are doing. They make some of the best fried



TRISTA NOEL

rice I have ever had, and their Mandarin Hot Chicken dish is the perfect blend of sweet and spicy.

Another place I just discovered is Stepina's Chicago-Style Pizza in Springfield. If you are ever in the mood for a cheesy, thick-crust pizza, this is the place to go.

Besides eating, I enjoy shopping. In Eugene, the prime shopping is at Oasis Fine Foods, Sundance Mercantile and Foot Fetish.

Oasis offers more than the standard items, and it is delightful to discover new delicacies at that store.

Sundance Mercantile offers the most unique, classy and often affordable clothing in Eugene.

If you are looking for a new pair of shoes, and you don't want Birken-

stocks, you have only one option: Go to Foot Fetish. The only store in Eugene to specialize in hip women's shoes, I don't know how people could survive without it.

As for the University, I will only miss two things. The first is the beautiful courtyard at the Museum of Art.

The second is *The Oregon Commentator*. I can't tell you how nice it is to receive feedback on the work I do from outside the newsroom. The staff of the *Commentator* has made me feel like a minor celebrity.

Although I wasn't mentioned as much as the members of the ASUO Executive, I did earn three entries, including an award, in the prestigious publication. Thanks to the entire *Commentator* staff for all of your support. One last thing: I noticed you are accepting applications for next year. How about hiring the mistress of white space?

Trista Noel is the entertainment editor of the Emerald.



QUICK
Takes

Mike Allred
will attend
comic show

Madman Comics creator, writer and artist Mike Allred will be a featured guest at the Eugene Comic Book Show Sunday, June 4 at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Allred's two *Madman* series won Best New Series in 1992 at the Harvey Awards.

The Eugene Comic Book Show will take place Sunday in the fairground's Wheeler Pavilion from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3. New and old comic books, POGs, Magic: The Gathering cards, magazines, non-sport cards, original art and toy items will be on display.