

## Hinds: artists' create awareness

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mindless zombies programmed by evil liberals to emulate the violence they are presented with.

If we gag the ability of artists — like Spike Lee, Ice-T and Oliver Stone — to present, through the media, to the upper half of America's economic class what life is like in the impoverished communities, this awareness would not exist.

It would not be a debatable political issue for the Republican party, which has a very poor track record on this matter.

What Dole advocates have is a "see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil" policy, where the wealthiest of Americans would be conveniently cocooned from any sense of responsibility to do anything about these problems.

Ted Hinds is a music columnist for the Emerald.



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## Showcase: six Oregon bands will play

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Phamous Phaces' current lineup has been playing for three years, although the band has been in existence, on and off, for eight years.

Mike Trathen, the bassist, said the band is influenced by the British invasion — like the Beatles and the Who.

But, he says, "we've all played in Top 40 bands in the past and have become pretty versatile," with influences from punk to new wave to the dreaded corporate rock.

Phamous Phaces has been entering as many showcases and contests as possible. "It's like the lottery — if you don't play, you don't win," Trathen said.

He's looking forward to this gig because of the exposure, and he's proud because they "beat a lot of odds just to be picked."

The American Girls have been together for a little more than a year. Eric Larson, a singer/guitarist, is somewhat hesitant to label their music besides saying it's pop rock.

"If I ask someone to describe our music because I can't, they tend to say we sound like something that's completely opposite of what the last person said," Larson said.

According to Larson, the band was nominated by someone at the Eugene Weekly to be in the showcase.

The American Girls sent in their tape and were asked to play. Larson said they aren't doing anything in particular to prepare for this gig.

"This is no more important

than playing in front of 10 people. We practice the same as usual," he said. "A gig is a gig."

Doris Daze has been described as intelligent, melodic and folk-influenced pop.

"What about crunchy with some distortion and a little bit of funkiness too?" asks Scott Crabtree, the drummer. He's played in a lot of groove-oriented bands, but the vocalist hates the Grateful Dead.

The bassist is into punk, but the guitarist is into folk. This variety influences their sound. Crabtree says the band is optimistic about the gig.

They played the Musician's Ball and North X Northwest, and both were "industry-oriented, but there was apparently no one there to specifically see us."

Skin Horse's singer/songwriter/guitarist, Steve James, received a letter recently informing him that Skin Horse was invited to play the showcase — initially not remembering they had even sent in an application. James says that one newspaper reporter described them as "crunchy folk pop."

He described the band as typical two guitars/bass/drums, with a lot of harmonies. He said the lyrics are "cinematic" and tell stories, and there is some wild guitar playing, "but not so much as to be distracting from the songs."

In June's guitarist, David Weigel, said, "We got a phone call one day from Ticketmaster, and I had no recollection of sending our tape in. I guess it was sent on a lark," he said.

The band has been together four years and has played in front of A & R reps many times, so they aren't nervous.

Weigel said the only thing the band is doing to prepare for this particular gig is "checking our tires and automobiles for that long haul down I-5."

The band is debuting three songs, so Weigel is a little nervous about that. In June is just happy to play another show and to get feedback.

Tales Untold has been together for five years. Their influences range from Supertramp and Squeeze to Jellyfish and Elton John. Don Schwartz, the bassist and tuba player, said the band had to put together a special set since they are only permitted to play for 30 minutes.

He said the band has played in other showcases in Los Angeles in bars, such as the Coconut Teazer and Club Lingerie, and even had label interest from the cymbal man's label, Paisley Park (before the label's demise).

Schwartz said as far as showcases go, "Never try to expect anything — if you get too excited you're going to be let down. They tend to go by really fast."

Poindexter wanted to let all bands know the industry reps will be marked and anyone can go and talk to them.

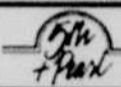
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