



**INSIDE**

Our new format for our calendar makes it easier to find this week's events

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**THIS WEEK**

"The Rites of Spring" will be performed tonight at the Hult Center

*Serving up*  
**SOFTWARE**

BY MATT GARTON  
ILLUSTRATION BY DENNIS BOLT

Willamette Science and Technology Center's new CAFE was designed to give patrons a taste of the latest computer software

Consuming what WISTEC's CAFE has to offer could prove hazardous to your health. That's because they don't serve food at Willamette Science and Technology Center's CAFE. They serve computer programs, and eating one could prove an electrifying experience.

CAFE means Computer Accessibility For Everyone, and they do mean everyone.

Upon entry into the dining area, you are greeted by a maitre'd (waiter) and offered a menu with selections of Appetizers, Entrees, Desserts and Side Orders, which include programs for kids (three years old and up) up to those for adults, and range from educational programs, games, entertainment and various kinds of interactive encyclopedias. After you make your selections, you are seated at one of their six computers, and your selections are ordered up for you.

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**Oscars ignore films dealing with serious issues**



Every year, controversy surrounds the Academy Award nominations. To an extent, such controversy is fabricated just to add drama to the most prestigious ceremony in the movie business. It keeps film critics and the entertainment media in business.

Yet it has long been argued that the Academy is too out of touch with the movie-going public to accurately reflect the merits of many films. That argument has added poignancy considering this year's nominations for best picture: *The Postman*, *Braveheart*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Babe*, and *Apollo 13*.

What those pictures have in common is old-fashioned feel-good political correctness. I'm not saying that *Apollo 13* does not deserve an Academy Award nomination for best picture. I'm saying those nominations reveal a clear bias against ground breaking pictures like *Leaving Las Vegas*

and *Dead Man Walking* that tread more controversial subject matter and force Americans to reexamine aspects of contemporary society.

*Forrest Gump* prompted that kind of introspection, but again in a much safer, God-bless-America way that downplayed our differences rather than focused on our problems.

*Leaving Las Vegas* took a sobering (no pun intended) look at one man, played by best actor nominee Nicholas Cage, who epitomized the American success story — wealth, prestige, corporate ascendancy — and became a victim of the pressures that went with it. Intent on killing himself, he befriends a prostitute. The allure of these characters is only heightened by the horrible treatment they receive from their fellow human beings as they cling to each other for compassion.

In *Dead Man Walking*, we are

forced to consider America's blood lust for capital punishment as we watch the most innocent of nuns (Susan Sarandon) gain sympathy for a convicted murderer (Sean Penn) despite public hatred toward him.

Here again a paradox is vividly illustrated, forcing the viewer to ask himself questions about our culture in the 90s.

The Academy Awards need to recognize the courage required to address these kinds of issues through film. The Academy's failure to assess the deeper significance of films such as *Leaving Las Vegas* and *Dead Man Walking* only proves that its members represent the interests of the Hollywood aristocracy and not those of the movie going public.

*Ted Hinds, a senior double-majoring in business and psychology, is an entertainment columnist for the Emerald.*

**Onomatopoeia to celebrate CD release**

Onomatopoeia will celebrate the release of their new CD March 2 at a CD release party, presented by the EMU Cultural Forum and KWA.

The event will take place at 8 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. Bella Low and Carmina Piranha, two Portland bands, will also appear.

Onomatopoeia, a local band, combines industrial, tribal and gothic influences with unique instrumentation to create an original sound. A light show will accompany the performance.

Tickets are \$3 for University students and \$4 for the general public.

