

Local Celtic band composed of professors, singer

Drowsy Maggie, a Eugene-based band includes one University and one LCC professor

By Natasha Shepard
Entertainment Reporter

Way yonder
A lad and two lasses
Came together to tout their wares
Way down in Eugene by the sea
Their music of olden-day melody
Their wares called Drowsy Maggie

Students who take linguistics classes from Professor Scott DeLancey shouldn't be surprised to run into him at WOW Hall on the weekend.

But he won't be moshing in the front or groovin' to the band. Instead, he'll be in the band, performing with his group Drowsy Maggie.

DeLancey, Linda Danielson and Janne Underriner make up Drowsy Maggie, the Eugene-based Celtic band whose tales of unemployment woes mingle with those of lost loves.

Although the three have been playing together for about three years, DeLancey says he has been playing Celtic folk music "forever."

"My father was a folk music fan, and I started playing guitar at 11," he said. "My mother's family is Scottish from Glasgow ... I started playing the banjo when I was in graduate school and the mandolin when I got my first job."

DeLancey, who is learned with many instruments, has been performing for about 25 years.

"It's just a fun thing to do," he said.

But in addition to expressing his love of music, DeLancey said performing adds another dimension.

"It's another dimension if you set a goal of being able to perform music people enjoy," he said.

DeLancey started while young, picking the music up again when his oldest son learned the violin. The music



Drowsy Maggie rehearse for their performances at Java Joe's and Sam Bond's Garage this weekend.

became something he and his son could do together.

Linda Danielson, professor by day and musician by night, teaches composition, folklore and American Indian literature at Lane Community College.

She also has a long history of musical involvement, and has arranged and performed musical accompaniment for Eugene theater productions, including the Brit Theatre's *Under Milkwood* and *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.

While Drowsy Maggie primarily performs traditional tunes, Danielson also writes for the group.

Her music also stays mainly in the traditional vein of Celtic music, characterized by fiddle rifts and clever lyrics.

Along with vocalist Janne Underriner, who has been involved with choral and jazz ensembles in the Eugene area, the group is one of few in Eugene who perform Celtic music.

Indeed their name, Drowsy Maggie, comes from a Celtic tune, as do most Celtic band names, said DeLancey.

The group usually performs at clubs and coffee houses in town,

including performances at last year's WOW Hall St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Their repertoire is as cheerful as it is melancholy, but as with most Celtic music, even the most tragic love ballads somehow come off as hopeful and certainly beautiful.

Ultimately, Drowsy Maggie is danceable and delightful, beautiful and bonny.

"There is a whole range of sad, clever, good dance music, jigs and reels," DeLancey said. "I love this music."

The band will be appearing at Java Joe's at 9 p.m. on Saturday and at Sam Bond's Garage Sunday at 8 p.m.



Linda Danielson plays a Celtic tune at the band's rehearsal.

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