

THIS WEEK

Walker T. Ryan will perform bearhanded blues May 9 at the Black Forest Tavern

INSIDE Only two opportunities remain to view 'The Conduct of Life' at the Arena Theatre

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE May 17, 1996

Musician Mason Williams seeks to celebrate rivers through an arts festival

By Nicole Krueger

hen two separately flowing streams merge, the result is called a confluence.

When an artist, a bookstore manager and a community come together to celebrate Oregon's rivers, the result is "Con-

fluence," a river-inspired arts festival. "My purpose is to create a framework from which the entire community can celebrate not only the river itself, but the feelings the river inspires in us," said Mason Williams, nationally renowned musician and mastermind behind the festival.

"Confluence" is scheduled for May 13-19, which Governor John Kitzhaber has declared Oregon Rivers Week. This is a time for Oregonians to celebrate the state's vast array of rivers. "The river belongs to all of us and is a

great inspiration in our lives." Williams said.

Williams expects the festival to become >>> anual May event. He and the Confluence Festival steering committee are un-ure what direction it will take in the future.

"Rather than defining and producing a festival, we're just casting ideas upon the

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Drugs, not rock music, cause teenage violence





Emerald

never thought I would side with former Vice-President and L potato-head-extraordinaire Dan Quayle, but maybe we do need to limit lawsuits. Not to protect doctors and big corporations from liability suits, but to protect rock-and-roll bands.

Our community was shocked last year by the gruesome murder of Fran Wall, who was working at a local Dairy Mart when she was brutally attacked by four troubled adolescents under the influence of LSD and alcohol. Our hearts went out to the survivor of the attack, Donna Ream, who was herself beaten and nearly died.

Since that time, two of the attackers have ended up on death row, while the other two can look forward to spending most of their lives in prison. This incident serves as a reminder of the scourge of drugs on our society. But it's time for Ream and the citizens of Eugene to move on with their lives, right?

Well, not exactly. You see, the four attackers not only abused drugs, robbed a convenience store and ruthlessly attacked two inno-cent victims, but they also listened to "death-metal" music. Donna Ream has filed an \$11 million lawsuit against a virtual laundry list of defendants who helped convey the messages of this dreaded form of rock-and-roll: death metal bands Deicide and

Cannibal Corpse, their record companies, the parents who allowed their adolescents to listen to these bands and The Record Garden, which sold the albums.

This is certainly not the first time rock-and-roll has been put on trial for allegedly causing vio-lence. The first such high-profile case came in the mid-80s, when Ozzy Osbourne was forced to defend himself after a troubled teen committed suicide to the song "Suicide Solution."

In 1990, another British rock group, Judas Priest, was sued by the families of two young adults from Reno, Nev. These two young

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