

Rhythm & REVIEWS



THIS WEEK

Walker T. Ryan will perform at 10 p.m. tonight at the Black Forest Tavern

INSIDE

Check out CD reviews of the bands that will perform at the Oregon Grind

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
May 24, 1996

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Activists attack drugs, nudity at country fair

Summer is almost here, and an old controversy is already heating up. Local conservative activists are already mobilizing to stop, or at least disparage, the Oregon Country Fair.

An annual event since the 70s, the Oregon Country Fair has become a counter-cultural tradition that has drawn national attention and tourism.

What makes the event unique to America is its scale and its sincerity.

Each year the festival draws more than 25,000 people through its gates for a

weekend of arts and crafts, international cuisine and live entertainment. Music, dance, magic, theater and even puppet theater are among the attractions that make the fair such a popular event.

However, critics assail the fair for its permissiveness of occasional nudity and the use of marijuana. The few altercations concerning these issues that have occurred in recent years have been well publicized by the event's opponents.

They argue that by allowing nudity and drug use, we are sending a message to our youth that such behavior is acceptable.

But is it consideration for our children that motivates these right-wing extremists, or is it blatant prejudice against the culture that the Oregon Country Fair celebrates?

"Hippies" and "Dead

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ON THE SCENE



Tim
Hinds



A large, diverse crowd of people gathers on the EMU lawn for live entertainment at the 1994 Oregon Grind.



A spectator juggles at the 1994 Oregon Grind.

Fresh GROUND

Monday
will bring
the last
"First
Annual
Oregon
Grind"

By James Scripps
Freelance Reporter

It is an annual tradition for the EMU Cultural Forum to have a "First" Annual Oregon Grind. The Memorial Day show will be the fourth in a growing line of First Annual Oregon Grinds, but it looks like it will become one of the best.

Monday's free show, which was scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., will start at 10 a.m. It will take place at the Bean basketball courts.

The Oregon Grind includes a lineup of six bands with diverse sounds and musical backgrounds.

Bands from Eugene include The American Girls, Cracked Mary and Jibliminis. Also appearing are Los Angeles-based Crumb and San Diego's Blacksmith Union. Headlining the event will be San Francisco's The Fabulous Hedgehogs.

Benjamin Samrick, national music coordina

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