

Rhythm & Reviews

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998

Films Roundup

A look back at the year's most memorable releases before Oscar time arrives

PAGE 9

Reviewing Red Rocks

Dave Matthews Band's new double CD, "Live At Red Rocks," impresses

PAGE 8

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■ Three Eugene bands, **The Vipers**, **Boogie Chillen'** and **The Deb Cleveland Band** form a Blues triple-bill at WOW Hall tonight at 9. Admission is \$5 at the door. Call 687-2746 for more information.

■ The University Cultural Forum will present a **Marx Brothers** double feature tonight, and the classic comedy **Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail** Saturday. The films will be shown in 180 PLC and cost \$2 for students, and \$3 for the general public.

■ The Very Little Theatre will present "**A Bad Year for Tomatoes**" as its second production of the season. This comedy is the story of a famous TV actress who is fed up with the pressures and demands of her career. The play has now opened and will run through the end of the month. Call 344-7751 for more information.

■ The Northwest Film Center will present the **4th annual Portland Jewish Film Festival** from now until Feb. 8. Call (503) 221-1156 for more information.



COURTESY PHOTO

Laura Love is the singer, songwriter, and bassist of the Laura Love Band.

Feel the Love

The popular Laura Love Band will bring their unique sound to WOW Hall Sunday

By Shannon Sneed
Entertainment Reporter

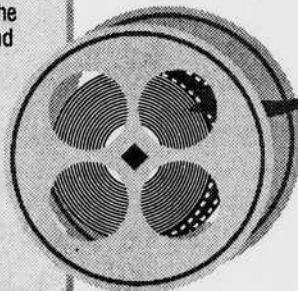
Question: When you bring together an electric bass, drums, acoustic guitars, a tongue drum and an accordion, what kind of sound results?

Answer: The Laura Love Band, a Seattle-based quartet who, with a unique blend of music sounds they call "Afro/Celtic," have for the past few years been creating quite a buzz in the music industry and among loyal fans nationwide. Sunday, the band will make a stop at WOW Hall and give Eugene a taste of their ethnic-flavored, rock-driven musical concoction.

Singer/songwriter/bassist Laura Love has actually been on the Northwest music scene for years. During the late '80s, she was a member of Boom Boom G.I., a grunge-blues band Seattle natives may remember with either extreme fondness or utter distaste, depending on personal opinion.

Turn to **CONCERT**, Page 10

'As Good As It Gets' this Academy Award season



James L. Brooks' *'As Good As It Gets'* features superb performances from the most unlikely of actors

By Evan A. Denbaum
Entertainment Editor

This time of year makes moviegoers salivate.

The Oscars are only a month away, and many of the year's most promising films are being crammed in right before Academy Award eligibility ends so as to leave the films fresh in voters' minds. And most of those films are directed by the industry's heavy hitters: Spielberg with "Amistad," Scorsese with "Kundun," Woody Allen with "Deconstructing Harry" and Tarantino with "Jackie Brown," among others.

Here's my review of one of the best of the bunch, and my take on the rest.

As Good As It Gets

This movie can pretty much be summed up by its title. It's a funny, touching story with surprisingly strong performances from unlikely people: Helen Hunt, the co-star of television's "Mad About You," turns in a genuine, multi-faceted performance as the film's leading lady. She shows the audience a tearful mother who is overwhelmed with emotion when finally achieving quality

MOVIE REVIEW

As Good As It Gets

A blend of comedy and drama
Directed by James L. Brooks

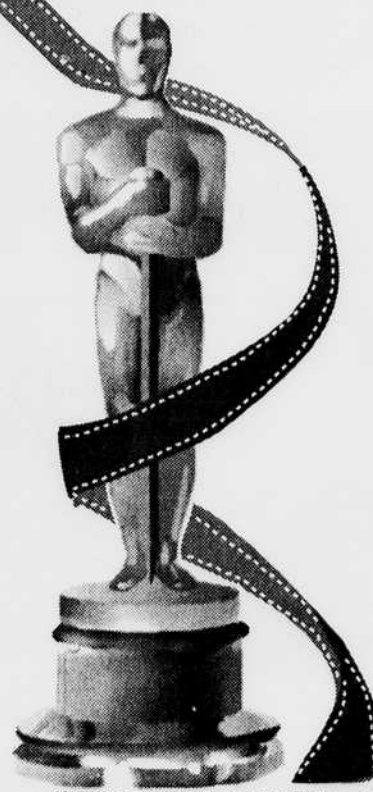
■ **STARRING:** Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt, Greg Kinnear

■ **RATED:** PG-13

■ **RATING:** ★★★★★

medical care for her sickly son; a non-judgmental confidant, helping her gay friend, played by Greg Kinnear, deal with issues surrounding his sexuality; and an insightful woman who can see through the dysfunctional personality of co-star Jack Nicholson's character.

Actually, we should have never seen Hunt in this role — it was written specifi-



Turn to **FILMS**, Page 9

MATT GARTON AND CARA STRAZZO/Emerald