

Rhythm & Reviews

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1998

'Three Tall Women'

Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning play is now on stage at the Lord Leebrick Theatre

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Music showcase

The French duo Air is featured in the KWVA Top 10 this week

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Emerald

Volume 99, Issue 86

be there

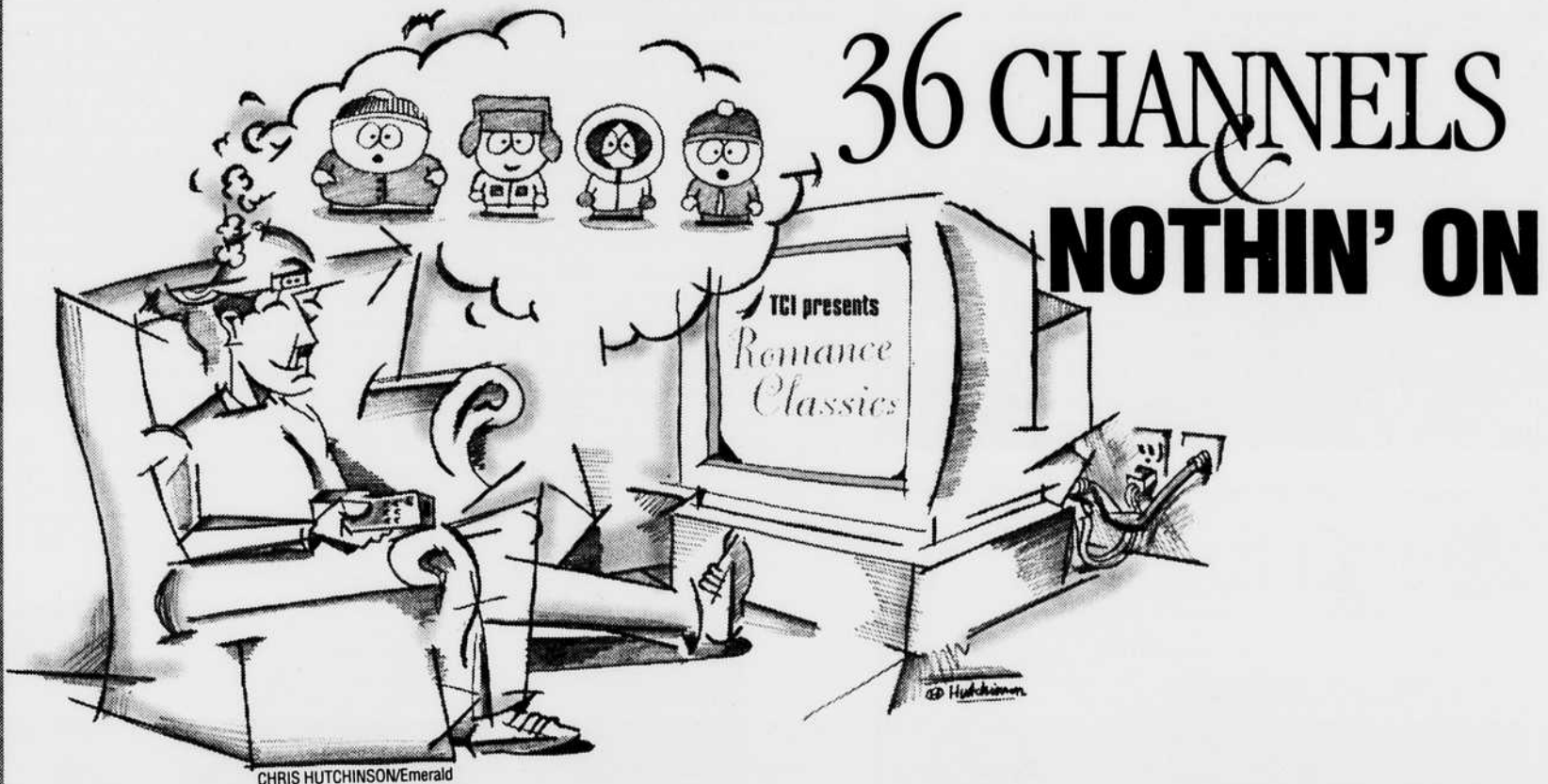
■ The Lane County Music Showcase tonight at 8 will feature the Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet and local artists Brainwashers and The Vipers. The show will be performed in the Agate Auditorium at 18th Avenue and Agate Street. Tickets are \$4 for students, \$5 for the general public.

■ Tibetan-inspired works are among the vessels, jewelry and sculptures by Lin Cook at the Jacobs Gallery in the Hult Center. The display is free and open to the public, but today is the last day to see the artwork.

■ Storyteller, bluesman and folk artist Greg Brown will perform two shows at WOW Hall on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 4 and 7. Brown's music mixes country, blues, gospel, rock and jazz. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance or \$14.50 at the door.



■ Up-and-coming funk band Galactic is touring in support of their album, 'Coolin' Off.' The group will perform at the Wild Duck Music Hall on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$6 for the general public.



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

By Evan A. Denbaum
Entertainment Editor

So I'm in my off-campus apartment, chatting with the TCI guy as he installs my cable, and he asks me if I know that the very first cable wired in the United States was in Astoria, Oregon. I tell him that I'm an East Coast native and that I had no idea that was the case. The guy seems to be quite proud of the distinction Oregon holds, and he gives me a little lesson about the history of cable and goes on to explain just how old the wires were running through my apartment complex. I thought it was all pretty cool at the time. I don't think it's so cool anymore.

I wasn't thinking of the distinct possibility that old wires meant outdated wires — ones that had been degrading for years and couldn't carry the number of channels I had grown accustomed to back home in New England.

I certainly wasn't thinking that with a

premium cable package in Eugene I would receive only 37 channels, some with sketchy reception. I mean, Bruce Springsteen released the song "57 Channels (And Nothin' On)" back in 1992, and we've only got 37 here in 1998!

And I wasn't thinking that so few channels would mean cable staples would be left off the lineup: the culty Comedy Central and the sports junky paradise ESPN2 (affectionately called "The Deuce"), just to name a couple. I was also surprised to see that other mainstays such as Lifetime and Pay-Per-View vanished, only to be replaced (as far as I could tell from watching) by networks such as Animal Planet. And I know this may offend, but I'm more interested in watching a PPV prize fight than a female locust bite off its mate's head. (Then again, recent prize fighters have been doing their fair share of biting, but I digress.)

Anyway, this couch potato was naturally thrilled to hear that TCI was attempting to make amends by introducing digital cable in our area. As of yesterday, local TCI subscribers can upgrade to the new technology, which offers 36 more channels, nifty new features

and more reliable service.

So now, I thought, all those who criticized TCI for killing Lifetime would be avenged. All the fans of the cult-phenomenon "South Park" can close their Quicktime bootlegs of "The Spirit of Christmas" and watch the real thing on Comedy Central. And all the sports fanatics such as myself will get their double dose of basketball and hockey on The Deuce. I mean, with three dozen new channels, TCI couldn't possibly fail to add those most obvious of choices, could they? Well, the answer is, "Oh yes, they could."

For one reason or another, all of the above have been excluded from TCI's new digital package. The main reason for the oversights is that the digital system is part of a nationally launched campaign to fend off the surge of 18-inch satellite dish subscribers. The digital channels are the same everywhere, and because most areas already get far more channels than Eugene subscribers, little old Eugene loses out because of that attempt to avoid overlap.

The second major reason for the exclusions is because of network trepidation over making the move to digital. The

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New digital cable

TCI is offering a new service to bolster the weak lineup of local analog cable and to combat the popularity of 18-inch satellite dishes.

■ **FEATURES:** 36 new video channels, including Bravo, Classic Sports Network and Pay-Per-View, 10 audio channels, a nifty navigator screen and more reliable, node-networked service

■ **PRICE:** An extra \$10 a month on top of normal cable costs, plus \$3.30 a month to rent the digital cable box, plus a one-time installation fee of \$12.95

■ **AVAILABILITY:** Available to Eugene subscribers now

Lorca's 'Blood Wedding' opens in Robinson Theatre

With other-than-human elements and a great deal of symbolism, the play features Death as a primary character

By Tammy Salman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Passion, deceit, murder, poetry. "Blood Wedding," Federico Garcia Lorca's haunting account of deception and death, contains all of these elements and begins today at Robinson Theatre.

The play, which premiered in 1933, tells the tragic story of a bride who runs away with her lover on her wedding day, only to end up losing both her lover and her husband to Death, a character in the play.

Lorca, born Fuente Vaqueros in Granada, Spain, was a poet, playwright, artist and musician. He was murdered in 1936 by nationalist partisans not long after the start of the Spanish Civil War.

"The play challenges a theater company to develop an acting style and visual elements to match the intensity of Lorca's po-

etry and passion," said director Jack Watson, head of the theater arts department.

"Lorca's poetic vision of this fated love is not lyrical, but rather fierce and visceral," he said. The pervasiveness of violence and the urgency of death are the compelling forces in this play, he said.

Melanie Moseley, a master's degree candidate in theater arts who plays Death, agrees with Watson.

"The play is extremely symbolic," she said. "It is certainly not realism. You have to let the music and imagery flow over you."

According to Watson, the play introduces elements other than human and makes them human, which is why the character Death is featured as part of the main cast.

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WENDY FULLER/Emerald

The Bride and Bridegroom sit with Death in the play 'Blood Wedding.'