

Old-school hip-hop artists to host 'gangsta-free' performance



By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

The recently restored and renovated McKenzie Ballroom will host the Oakland hip-hop band known as Hieroglyphics on March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Will Myers, the owner of the McKenzie Ballroom, located at 630 Main St. in Springfield, said he really liked Hieroglyphics and had heard them perform before. "They are a very popular group and their beat is very danceable," he said.

Hieroglyphics consists of old-school hip-hop members Del the Funky Homosapien, Casual, Pep Love, Domino and a group known as Souls of Mischief.

Hieroglyphics' newest album is "Third Eye Vision," which is the first collection of Hieroglyphics work featuring all the members of the group. Abandoning major record labels, Hieroglyphics recently formed their own record label.

Myers said the McKenzie Ballroom renovation took place between June and September 1997. "It used to

be an old theater," he said. "So we took out the theater seats and put in a level tiled floor, put in lighting for bands and there's a big stage."

The renovations cost about \$60,000 and also include a 6,000-square-foot dance floor and a beer garden for people over 21, Myers said.

Only people age 21 and over may attend this event because of the beer garden, he said.

According to a press release, Hieroglyphics' performance is being promoted as a peaceful show. "There will be no gangsta rappers," and the show should be free of "violence-filled raps and disrespect."

Tickets for Hieroglyphics are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door. Tickets are available at the EMU Ticket Office. For more information, call the McKenzie Ballroom at 726-8003 or Dark Side Productions at 684-1835.

For more information about the Hieroglyphics, see their Web site at <http://www.hieroglyphics.com>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hieroglyphics' McKenzie Ballroom show is part of an effort to bring gangsta-free hip-hop to Eugene.

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10. Chasing Amy

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FREE Concert this Friday

Neil Bjorklund
and members of
Flying Canoe

Appearing with Bjorklund are **Luis Chicas Cruz**, whose bongo and conga playing has previously ignited fans of Unshakable Race and Rubberneck—plus **Jeremy Gibbons**, formerly of Isor Wallabee, who wields his electric bass with flair and punch to get you dancing.

Collier House
9 p.m.

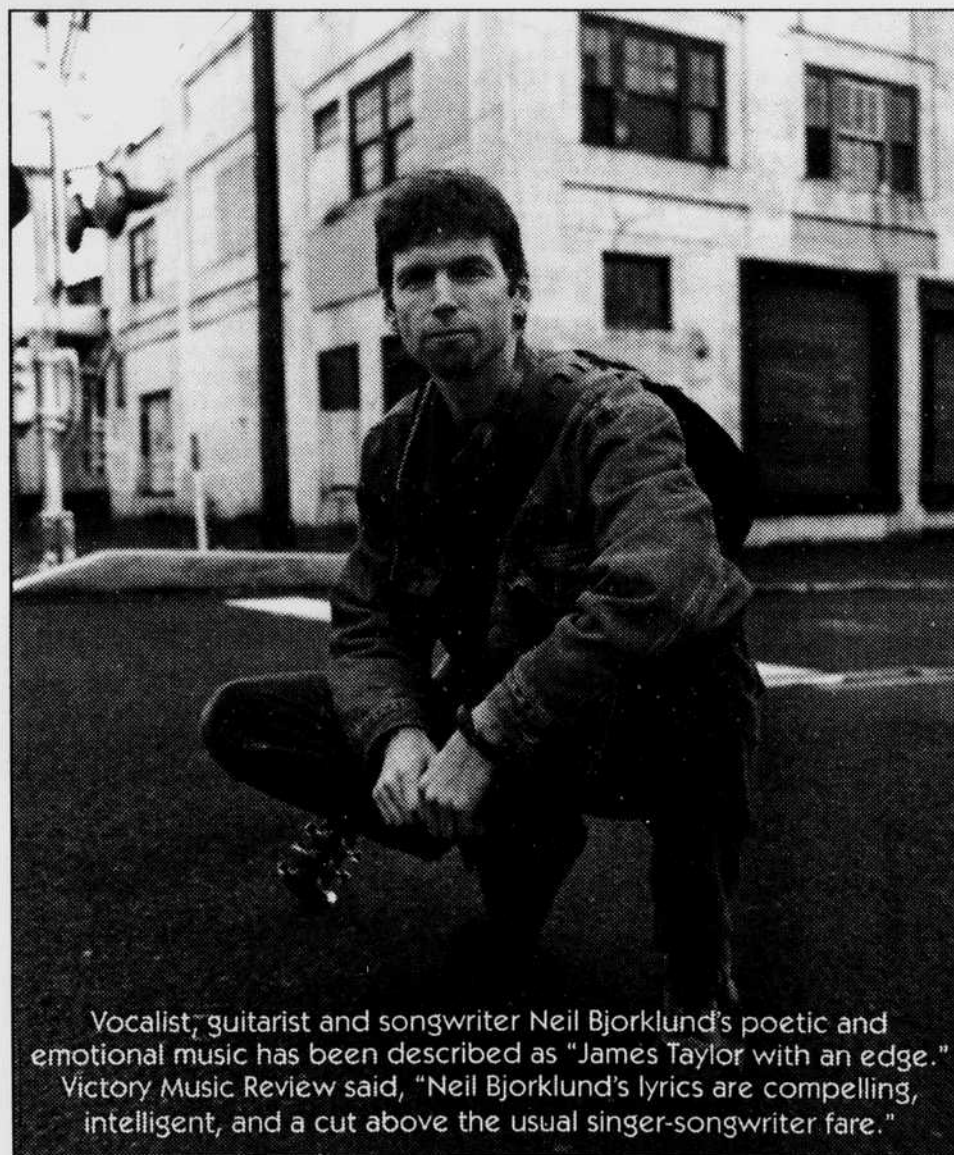
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Which, as the name applies, happens on the first Friday of every month at the Collier House, located just west of the EMU.

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Vocalist, guitarist and songwriter Neil Bjorklund's poetic and emotional music has been described as "James Taylor with an edge." Victory Music Review said, "Neil Bjorklund's lyrics are compelling, intelligent, and a cut above the usual singer-songwriter fare."

