

# Rhythm & Reviews

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1998

## Patty's Day concerts

Concerts featuring Kila and Skye fill out WOW Hall's St. Patty's lineup

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## String Cheese Incident

The band that has a musical foundation in bluegrass, but mixes many types of music, will perform in the EMU Ballroom

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Volume 99, Issue 116

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■ **Frank Gosar**, resident ceramic instructor at the EMU Craft Center, is showing his newest figure work now through April 25 in the Alder Gallery (55 W Broadway). Also on display are the paintings of **Shirley Froyd** and **Gretchen Raisch**. Call 342-6411 for more information.

■ Actors Cabaret of Eugene presents **'The Destiny of Me'** tonight at 8 in the ACE Annex. The play, which is a sequel to Larry Kramer's **'The Normal Heart'**, won the Obie Award in 1993. The play will run through April 4. Call 683-4368 for more information.

■ Enjoy an evening of 'down-home acoustic blues' with singer-guitarists **David Jacobs-Strain** and **Walker T. Ryan** March 14 at the Unitarian Church (477 E. 40th). The performance will be recorded live for a CD. Call 683-8556 for more information.

■ **Future Music Oregon**, the School of Music's computer music center, will give a concert at 8 p.m. in Room 198 of the Music Building on March 7. Tickets are available at the door.



## Home-field advantage



### Absolute Improv!

By Shannon Sneed  
Entertainment Reporter

#### The home team

It's been only a year and a half since Absolute Improv!, the University's student improvisational comedy troupe, debuted at the University. Since then, they've been successfully cracking up audiences everywhere they go, from campus shows to performances all around the state.

Now, the pressure's about to turn up a notch.

The Exit Players, a student comedy troupe from Yale University — a school known, among other things, for the quality of its acting program — have been touring the West Coast and are making a stop in Eugene tonight, and the two troupes will go head-to-head in a comedic fight to the finish.

"We've never done anything like this before," said University theater arts major Ryan Honey, who has been with Absolute Improv! since the troupe's formation. "This is the first time we'll be competing with another group, rather than just with each other."

#### The game plan

Sabrina Bernasconi, a junior theater arts major who joined Absolute Improv! a year ago, said the troupe usually divides up into two teams for performances anyway, so they're used to a competitive format.

"Generally, we have a list of games we play, and we divide them up, and then it really just goes from there," she said.

Honey said although the format of tonight's show will primarily be a competition, he expects the two troupes to collaborate for some sketches, too.



Laura Goss/Emerald

Members of Eugene's Absolute Improv! take out their pre-show aggression on a dummy dressed like a member of The Exit Players from Yale.

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### The Exit Players

By Evan A. Denbaum  
Entertainment Editor

#### The visiting team

The Exit Players, representing Yale University, come into tonight's bout at the Actors Cabaret as the favorites, despite playing Oregon's Absolute Improv! at the tail of a long road trip. The Exit Players hold a distinct edge in experience, having performed hundreds of improv shows in New England since their conception in 1984.

Some, including Yale senior Francis Franze, feel The Exit Players' veteran savvy and high-energy performances might be too much for the young upstarts from Eugene.

"They have the reputation as the finest improv troupe at Yale," Franze said. "Honestly, they have the most talent around and also perform very different improv skits at each show. The troupe's complex games get the crowd really excited."

#### 'Exits' are located in the front and rear of the auditorium

The No. 1 ranked Players are used to capacity crowds such as the Oregon-biased one they are expected to face at the Actors Cabaret. They perform six or seven shows annually at Yale, including shows in the university's largest auditorium, Woosley Hall. The troupe also performs at several benefits every year, including raising funds for the Yale Hunger Action Project and acting in the gala celebration for New Haven's 350th birthday.

#### Keys to victory

In a format pitting the two improv troupes against each other, the games played and the audience's involve-

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## Hult to host 3 concerts, including symphony violinist

Acclaimed  
violinist  
Elissa Lee  
Kokkonen  
will perform  
Stravinsky's  
violin  
concerto on  
March 19

By Shannon Sneed  
Entertainment Reporter

With three concerts occurring within a six-day period, the coming week promises to be quite a busy one at the Hult Center.

On March 19, the Eugene Symphony will perform three pieces they've never done before, marking perhaps their most adventurous night of the '97-'98 season.

The works performed will be: Osvaldo Golijov's "Last Round," composed in 1996; a violin concerto composed by Igor Stravinsky; and Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 1 in E minor.

"This concert is really a challenge for the musicians," said Pat Cusick of the Eugene Symphony. "It's a chance for them to do something new, and the three pieces work well together thematically."

The three works range dramatically in age and cultural origin; Golijov is Argentinean,

Stravinsky is Russian and Sibelius is from Finland.

This performance will be the North American premiere of Golijov's tango-inspired piece.

Music director and conductor Miguel Harth-Bedoya wanted to perform it because he knows Golijov, and the two have a mutual appreciation and background in Latin-inspired music, Cusick said.

Internationally acclaimed violinist Elissa Lee Kokkonen will perform Stravinsky's violin concerto. Kokkonen was raised in Hong Kong and Korea, but moved to the United States at age 11 to study music. She has won numerous awards for her performances and has collaborated with a number of orchestras while touring the world — including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Pops Orches-



COURTESY PHOTO

Symphony's violinist Elissa Lee Kokkonen.

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