

# Rhythm & Reviews

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1998

## Birthday Party

Campus station KWVA celebrates five years on-air with a concert

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## Dave Matthews Band

Read a review of the group's latest: 'Before These Crowded Streets'

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Emerald

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### Entertainment Thumbs



#### MARTIN SHORT IN 'MERLIN'

His performance was an absolute delight. I had no idea he could be that good. Overall, the casting for 'Merlin' was impeccable. The Trent-Reznor-looking Mordred was dead-on.

#### FILMS AT PLC

Tonight, go see 'The Conformist,' an excellent film by Bernardo Bertolucci. The film will be in 180 PLC at 8 p.m. You won't regret it.

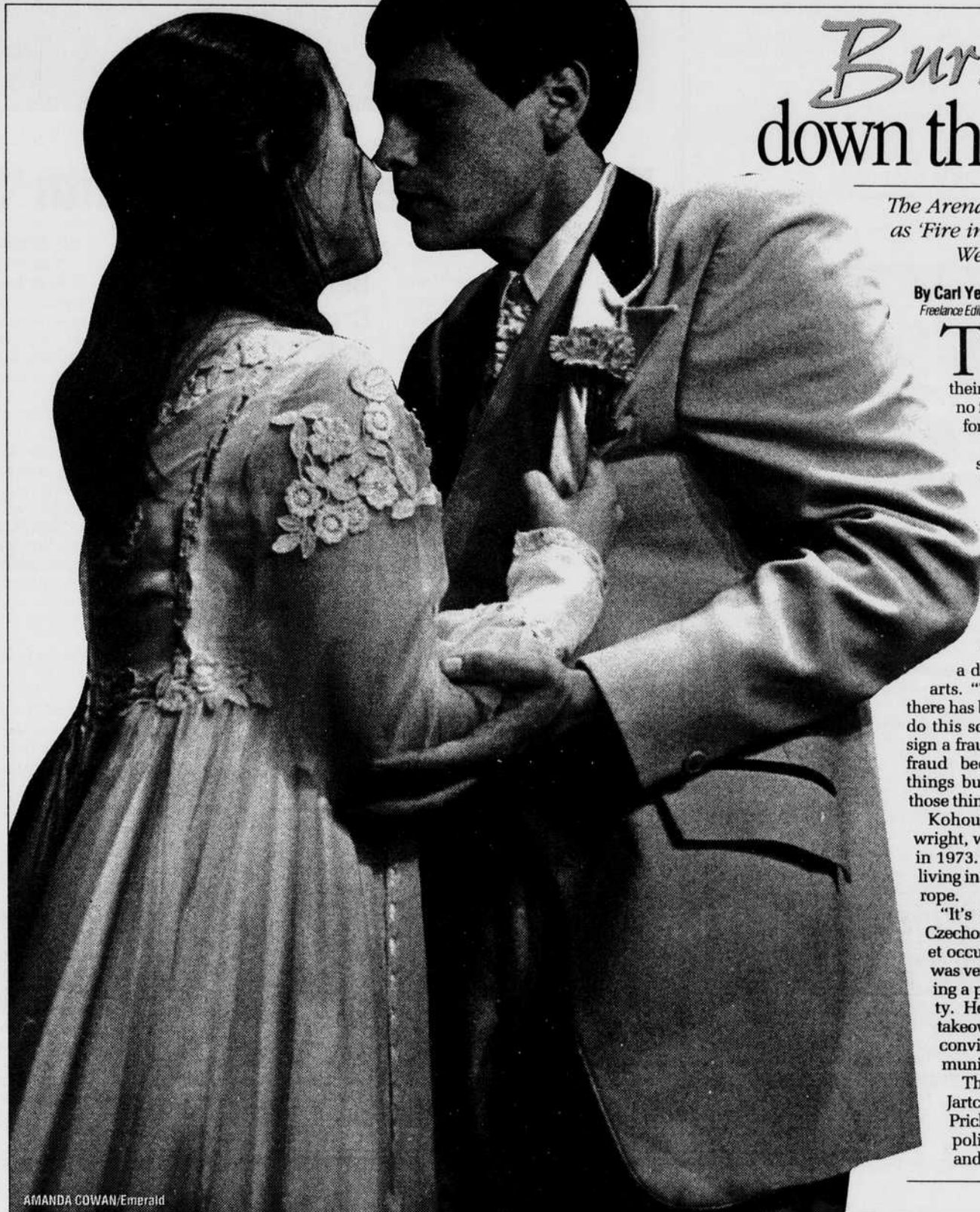
#### VW BEETLE ADS

Besides being warm and fuzzy, these TV commercials feature the music of Stereolab. The ads reminded me just how good Stereolab's latest album, 'Dots and Loops,' is. Check it out.



#### MTV OVERKILL

Have you noticed lately that every time there's a video on MTV it has an insipid, little bar on the screen's bottom, on which fan requests and opinions are run. I'm sorry, but who cares what Kelly from Illinois thinks about Smashmouth's latest hit? Still, it's not so bad when the bar is used to run song lyrics, the necessity of which proves that there isn't a single 'alternative' singer left who can enunciate.



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

## Burning down the house

The Arena Theatre will be lit up as 'Fire in the Basement' opens Wednesday night

By Carl Yeh  
Freelance Editor

There will be a "Fire in the Basement" at the Arena Theatre. But nobody will run for their lives. That's because there is no fire in reality — or in the play, for that matter.

The University Theatre presents Pavel Kohout's "Fire in the Basement." In this one-act play, people masquerading as firemen convince a newlywed couple that there is a fire in their home when there really is not, said Jim Utz, the play's director.

"The 'firemen' play an elaborate con game with the young couple," said Utz, a doctoral candidate in theater arts. "They try to convince them there has been a fire in the house. They do this so they can get the couple to sign a fraudulent insurance policy. It's fraud because they say expensive things burned when they never had those things to begin with."

Kohout, a Czechoslovakian playwright, wrote "Fire in the Basement" in 1973. His play addresses issues of living in Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe.

"It's a play that was written in Czechoslovakia in the middle of Soviet occupation," Utz said. "[Kohout] was very much concerned with writing a parody of his own social reality. He's talking about the initial takeover — the Soviets rolled in and convinced them they needed communism," he said.

The newlywed couple, Engl and Jartchi, is played by Graham Prichard, a junior planning, public policy and management major, and Sarah Dyrhaug, a junior the-

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## Musician-comedian extraordinaire comes to Hult

By David Ryan  
Freelance Reporter

Not too many people realize there is a connection between Adolf Hitler and Fozzie Bear.

It's Victor Borge, the 90-year-old Danish comedian/pianist who will perform at the Hult Center on May 2.

On the eve of World War II, Borge was entertaining audiences in Copenhagen and Denmark by lampooning Hitler during his comedy routines. Hitler, not generally known for his sense of humor, added Borge to the Gestapo's list of people to imprison and torture. When the Nazis invaded in 1940, Borge managed to take the very last boat out of Denmark to begin his career anew in America.

Borge has been touring America

regularly since then. In fact, he hasn't stopped touring.

"The way he operates his tours is that he performs three or four shows a week," said Erick Hoffman, director of marketing and programming at the Hult Center.

Borge has done several television appearances, including a Mike Wallace special, several PBS specials and — here's the connection — sharing a performance on "The Muppet Show" with Fozzie Bear.

But that's not the only quirky connection Borge can make. Borge is part stand-up comedian, part clown and part piano virtuoso. These qualities give him the ability to bring classical music to the accessible level of humor and sophomoric wit while edu-

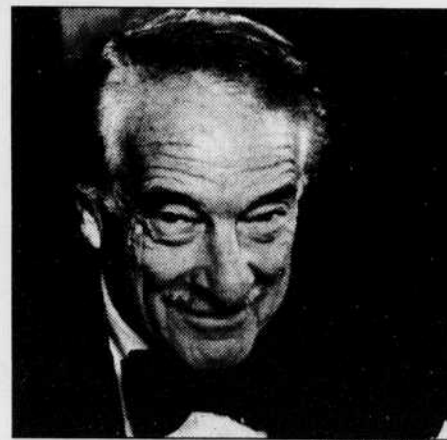
cating audiences on the quirks of the genre.

Just to illustrate, Borge will play one of Brahms' waltzes. Then he will stop playing some notes. And some more. And more still. Suddenly, he is playing "Happy Birthday," a song that was actually hidden within the melody written by Brahms — all the while slipping off the piano bench. Sometimes, though, he wears a seat belt. Then there's the piano sonata he will play, but instead he ends up getting distracted by his watch.

"My grandfather gave me this watch before he died," Borge says during one performance, "for 20 bucks."

Then Borge stands up to talk a lit-

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COURTESY PHOTO

Victor Borge holds the world record for the longest-running one-man show.