

Lane County Fairgrounds offers fine wine and artwork

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

Lane County Fairgrounds is going high class and indulging in fine wine this weekend for the first ever Crush Wine and Art Festival.

Crush refers to the frenetic period of time when wineries pick, crush and ferment the grapes into wine. The crush usually takes place in September and October when the grapes are harvested.

"We usurped the name because it is evocative of the wine lifestyle," explained event director Bob Wolfe.

Thirty-one wineries from all over Washington and Oregon, including Portland, Salem, Hood River, Jacksonville and Ashland, will be present with their bottles of goodness for pleasure seekers or wine connoisseurs.

The festival features a 'virtual winery tour' set up to bring a real winery feel to the fairgrounds. The whole scene resembles a small winery displaying several pieces of old-fashioned wine equipment. The display will include a stemmer — the crusher that takes the grapes and pulls out the stems, breaking the skin so the juices can flow. The scene will also highlight a basket-press — the tub where the grapes are pressed after they are done fer-



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

A wine tasting seminar at the Fairgrounds event will highlight the five component tastes in wine.

menting — and a pad filter, which strains and filters out the chunks before the wine is bottled. Numerous wine barrels will line the room.

25 art vendors will be featured at the festival. The vendors will emphasize fine art pieces such as paintings, photos and sculptures. A gallery sponsored by McKenzie Mist will also display 30 of the best pieces of artwork chosen from 125 entries, with artists ranging from San Francisco to Portland.

The pieces will be showcased in a gallery setting including art walls, pedestals and even carpeting. Judges will award \$1,500 for the best 2-D and 3-D pieces, and the public will vote for the People's Choice award.

The festival will feature 12 local eateries, including Cafe Soriah, Rising Moon, Fisherman's Market, Tom's Tea House and Oregon Electric Station Catering. Music will be playing on the

KEZI stage all weekend long. Boogie Chillin', The Jazz Cruisers and Big Fiddlin' Sue and Uncle T will play Friday. Saturday will highlight Vintage Blues Band, Shelly James Band and Swamp Mama Johnson. On Sunday, Laura Kemp and Babes with Boys will start the afternoon off with tear jerking ballads, and Deb Cleveland will sing some soulful R&B in the afternoon.

Three seminars on the joys of wine tasting will highlight the

weekend. Former sommelier and Eugene Weekly wine writer Lance Sparks will talk about the entertaining aspects of wine. Another seminar will discuss chocolate and wine, which are two of the best tastes taken together. Several articles have discussed the antioxidant effect of taking both chocolate and wine together.

The most unique wine tasting seminar will highlight the five component tastes in wine. The public will be able to taste samples of sweet, oaky, tannic and acidic elements in wine. Tasting them separately will allow individuals to better distinguish those elements in a wine.

"It's very unique," Wolfe said. "No one has ever tried to do that and incorporate the fun and educational aspects of wine tasting."

Other seminars will feature Italian wine, salmon tasting and wine and biscotti tasting.

Beware minors, the festival is only open to those individuals over 21, and visitors will need to bring their ID. The cost is \$7 per person, and the seminars are free and open to the public. Wine tasting ranges from 25 cents to \$5 and \$2 to \$4 a glass. Bottles are for sale, and patrons may drink the wine with their meal or take it home and enjoy it later.

Hollywood Taxi hosts Floater's CD release concert

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

To see Floater in concert is to experience primal sensations at their most pure.

Under cover of darkness and haze, the voice of Marlon Brando or Dennis Hopper from "Apocalypse Now" breaks the silence in short, sharp bursts. Tribal drums and instrumental sound effects begin to fade in and out, molding eventually into a driving groove that careens forward like a diamond bullet. Garnished by sometimes sparkling, often crunching guitar licks, the melodic but menacing bass and pulsing drums can usually whip even the tamest crowd into a throbbing frenzy.

Fans of the local product will have their next chance to experience the "Pink Floyd metal-pop" sounds of Floater on Saturday night at the Hollywood Taxi in Springfield. The show will celebrate the recent release of the band's third album, "Angels in the Flesh and Devils in the Bone," which hit stores on Tuesday.

Jim Jensen, booking agent for the

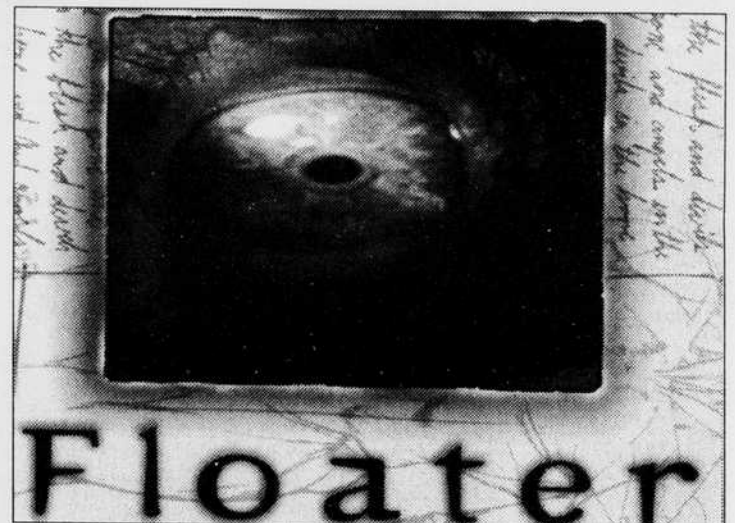
Hollywood Taxi, is looking forward to hosting Floater again.

"The Hollywood Taxi fucking rocks with Floater," he said. "The last gig was huge. Floater shows come off here better than anywhere else because the band feels comfortable here, and they get that vibe going. If the customers feel good, and the band feels good, then you have that marriage that just works."

That marriage has been renewed countless times since the group's formation in Eugene almost five years ago. Capitalizing on themes of isolation and darkness, the group released "Sink" in 1994, and it quickly became a college-radio sensation.

Floater first made noise nationally with the release of 1995's "Glyph" and the strength of its catchy, hook-driven single, "The Sad Balled of Danny Boy."

Doing more for the "Danny Boy" image than Chumbawumba could ever hope to, the single was picked up by a nationally syndicated radio network and broadcast across the country.



COURTESY PHOTO

Floater will mark the release of its third album, CD cover shown.

Finally, after a two-year-long recording hiatus, Floater is back with the new release.

"They have a melodic groove — a Pink Floyd metal-pop kind of thing," Jensen said. "They play mood music with deep bass lines. It's a heavy-hitting band."

Saturday's show begins at 9 p.m. with Business Suit Guy and Mommy opening. Tickets for the 21-and-over show are \$6 in advance, \$10 at the door and are available at Face the Music, CD World, Record Garden, Fred Meyer and the Hollywood Taxi.

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