

# Rhythm & Reviews

SEPTEMBER 21, 1998

**D**  
Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## Alexi Lalas

The soccer star is a rookie again — this time in the music business/13B

## Local Bars

Eugene offers a wide variety of bars near the campus area/4D



## WOW Hall

The local venue hosts a variety of musical and artistic acts/7D

# Sing it loud, Sing it proud

Karaoke, a fad that started in Japan in 1984, is a growing hobby in Eugene

A quick scan about the lounge yields a sea of mirrored walls, maroon carpeting and dime-sized white lights. At the far end of the dimly lit bar, a disco ball dangles from the ceiling refracting darts of yellow light onto a small stage perched in front of a big-screen television. As the crowd of about 35 roars with applause from their bar stools and cushy, Naugahyde chairs, a woman's seductive voice booms over a microphone: "Next up is Ron Dinkelmeir." The star of the moment saunters up the microphone and convincingly belts out Ben Folds Five's "Brick" to the music of an invisible band.

That was not the new lead singer for the band, and this crowd isn't swinging like Wayne Newton in Vegas, baby.

Dinkelmeir, 25, was flexing his vocal muscle at a karaoke night at the

Red Lion Inn on Coburg Road. The Inn's lounge hosts nights of musical knock-offs every Thursday and Friday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Dinkelmeir said he has been enjoying nights of karaoke for the past few years and said he is not shy about crooning on stage.

"It took me a while and a couple of Long Islands to start singing," he said. "The cool thing about karaoke is that people really appreciate enthusiasm and the willingness to get up there. If you consider yourself a prima donna or a star, you get old fast."

But karaoke itself has not gotten very old very fast.

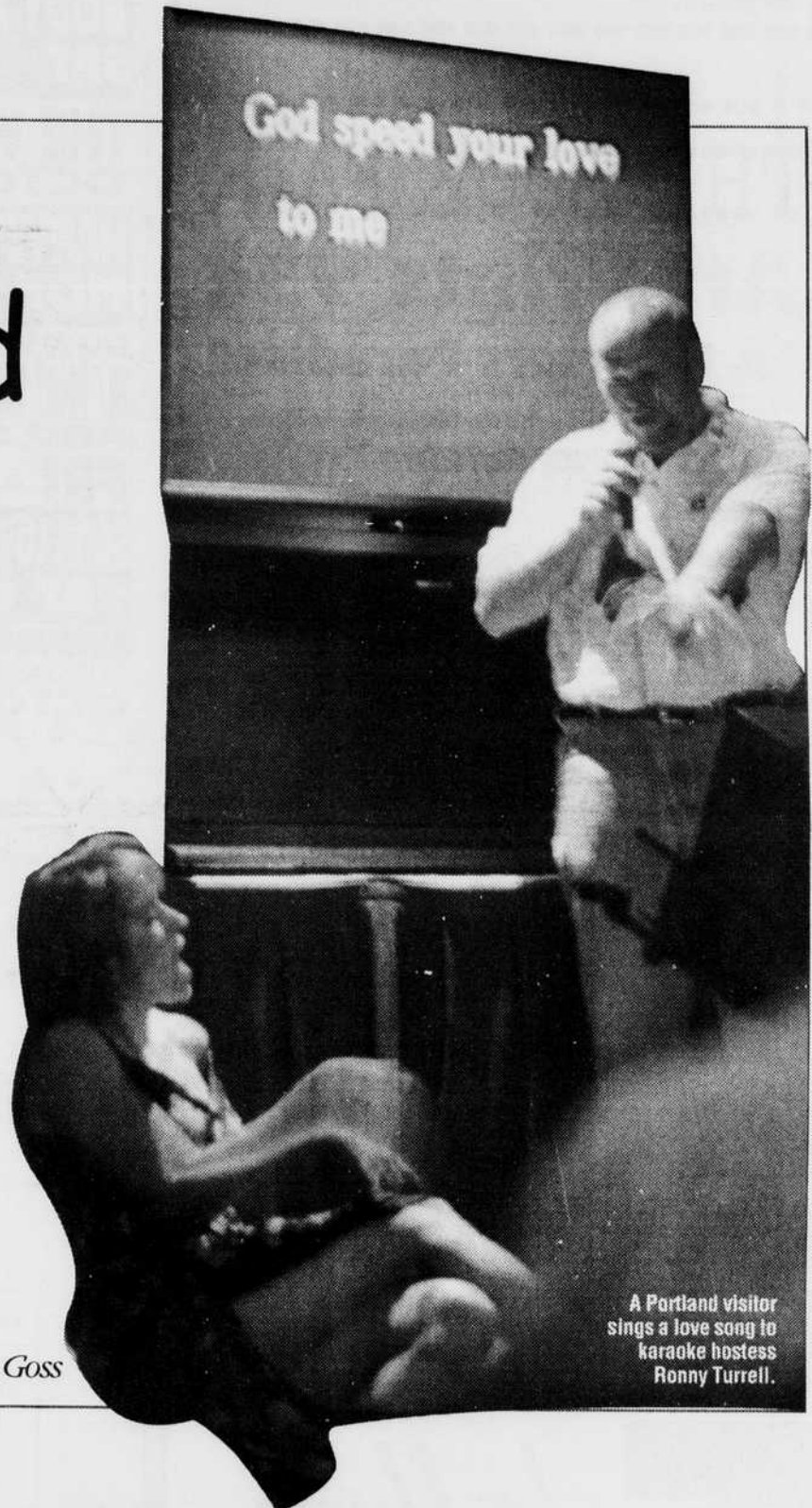
According to the vanBasco Software Web page, karaoke, or "empty orchestra," started in Kansai, Japan, in 1984. Karaoke's popularity spread to the United States and has etched its way into the

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story by Michael Burnham

photo illustration by Laura Goss



A Portland visitor sings a love song to karaoke hostess Ronny Turrell.

# Cultural Forum brings Bob Dylan to Mac Court

Despite a blitz of recent media hype, Dylan still manages to maintain his integrity as an artist

By Peter Breden  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Bob Dylan's 41st album, "Time Out of Mind," has earned enough accolades to fill up a magazine feature and two Web sites. These, however, are not reasons to get a ticket for his Sept. 24 show at Mac Court.

Let's run down the list of some other reasons not to see Dylan:

Reason 1: Garth Brooks' version of Bob Dylan's composition, "To Make You Feel My Love," is the No. 1 country record in America. (Incidentally, the lyrics are rearranged to better capture Garth's pipes.)

BD's lyrics, though open for one rendition after another, are best suited for his own subtle and evocative delivery. One especially tacky rendition is The Four Sea-

sons bee-bopping version of "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right." If his lyrics are your only incentive, there are many online libraries to check out at your nearest terminal.

Reason 2: "Time Out of Mind" went platinum and won three Grammy Awards.

Most of the reviews of BD's latest come from lifelong fans who could list as many BD covers as The Dave Matthews Band has original material. With a body of material as dense and treacherous as his curly mop, BD has a canon that few can claim to have mastered. Though it may be his fastest-selling new release, TOOM (the phonetically appropriate acronym) is as challenging an album as ever.

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Van Morrison and Lucinda Williams will perform with Dylan on Thursday.

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