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That charisma radiated from the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall stage Monday night during the last stop on her nationwide tour. The concert was sponsored by the University's Cultural Fo-

By Khaiersta Flowers

The Righteous Babe Records

symbol glowed in the back-

ground while the stage was

cleared for the arrival of Ani

DiFranco. Cartoon music and

echoing screams filled the air as

the concert hall was drenched in

darkness. DiFranco appeared

DiFranco exuded powerful

charisma - and she knew it.

"We are a polished, precise folk

with her back to the crowd.

music force," she said.

"It's like the music pours from her soul," said audience member Lila Stratford.

DiFranco appeared on stage with an eclectic band, part of her ever-evolving musical style. With instruments ranging from drums to the cello to a funky accordion, the sounds were as complex as DiFranco herself.

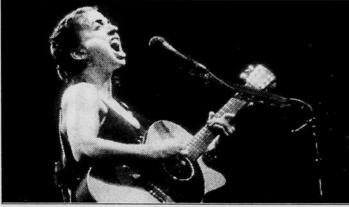
"She is a songwriter, a produc-er and a singer, but her personality comes out more than anything," said concert-goer Liz Anderson. "She has a very intimate connection with her audi-

Since the debut of DiFranco's label Righteous Babe Records in 1990, she has produced 11 albums. She gleaned most of her concert selections from her newest album, "Little Plastic Castle," and her 1995 release "Not a Pretty Girl." Her energetic concert flavor took a spin from the harsh, bitter lyrics of her 1996 al-

From the quiet melody of "Not a Pretty Girl" to the random beat of "Fuel," her concert music carried a compelling social message. Addressing topics such as bisexuality, racial tolerance and selfdiscovery, the folkstress turned her music into a political art

Her most powerful selection condemned racial intolerance: "They caught the last poor man / On a poor man's vacation / And drove his black ass down to the

Ani DiFranco gives 'brilliant' show





Singer Ani DiFranco energetically performs for a Hult Center audience Monday night.

station / We might as well turn off the sun / We'll never live long enough to undo / Everything they've done to you."

As DiFranco continued to build up steam, her band played "Little Plastic Castle," prompting several women to show their independence by dancing topless in the front row.

The lights dimmed and the stage fell to darkness as DiFranco energetically wrapped up the last half of the concert. The crowd responded with an earthquake of stomping feet, violent screams and rhythmic clapping.

DiFranco reciprocated with two encores, one of which included fiery accordion playing.

"I do it for the joy," DiFranco said of her enthusiasm for the night's performance.

One thing is certain: the joy could be felt at this brilliant per-

Casey Neill hopes to woo Eugene

By Michael Burnham

Singer/songwriter Casey Neill said he does not believe his threeheaded brand of Celtic-folk-punk music will ever earn mass commercial and public appeal. But don't tell his fans that.

One night, his trio was wooing baby boomers at a packed coffee

The next night he was thrilling thirtysomethings at a Celtic music festival

A third night he was rocking Generation Xers at an Earth Day concert.

But whether Neill is just modest or turning a blind eye to success, one thing is certain: his sound sells.

The Appleseed recording artist will try to sell his trio's unique Celtic sound to the Eugene crowd tonight at a performance at Sam Bond's Garage. The concert comes to town as the 27-year-old musician promotes his self-titled album, released in April.

The ten-track compact disc includes Celtic/folk tunes of such polar variety that it is hard to find any one song on the album that captures the feeling of the whole. But one certainty about Neill on his new release is his storytelling — be it an **Casey Neill**

TYPE: Celtic folk **PUBLISHED BY:** Appleseed Records RATING:

American tale or an Irish narrative. He injects a social message into traditional Celtic folk rhythms. Celtic music combines ballads with hardthumping drums and acoustic string and wind instruments

"It really felt like a songwriter's album, and it felt really personal," Neill said. "But I'm not writing only within the genre. They're contemporary songs."

Neil said the contemporary feel is a combination of the trio's musical staple - traditional Irish music - with bluegrass, folk and a pinch of punk. Neill grouped his trio's playing with a wave of Canadians and Americans who perform music with Irish overtones.

"Young people are playing Irish music that is not a museum piece," he said. "You want to maintain tradition but keep it alive. It's a balance."

Nary a tune on this album be-

The album's first track jumps off a springboard of hard-picking acoustic guitar and conga drums in the narrative song "Double Dutch." But Neill's trio excels most in its

performances of ballads. The song "Another Point of View" has an intimate, campfire quality that is backed by Anna Schaad on viola and violin and Hans Araki on flute and whistle.

A fine aspect of this album is Neill's tasteful infusion of historical, literary and artistic references into his songs. The album's seventh track, "Whole Cloth," was inspired by Alice Walker's collection of essays, "Living by the Wind."

The Celtic influence in Neill's music shines through the most in the album's ninth track, "Breathe Life." The song — a social message about post-industrial Midwest America - weaves Neill's heavyhanded acoustic guitar with triomember Zak Borden's octave mandolin. This song, which can be compared with material from the Irish folk combo The Chieftains, is sure to induce plenty o' foot-tapping and dancing with a live audience.

The trio's performance at Sam Bond's Garage begins at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

adaptations made for the big screen.

Like the book, though, holes exist in

some areas of the plot, occasionally

Constant flashbacks keep the

audience attuned to the thought

process of each character, show-

This technique is also a down-

fall of the film. At times, it is diffi-

cult to decipher whether what the

characters see is reality or illusion,

Regardless of its few flaws,

"Beloved" is a remarkable film. It

has received much hype, which it

deserves. And it is sure to receive

numerous award nominations,

Just be warned: this is not an

easy movie to watch, but it's worth

past or present.

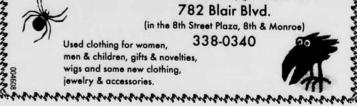
it in the long run.

ing the story from many angles.

making it difficult to follow.

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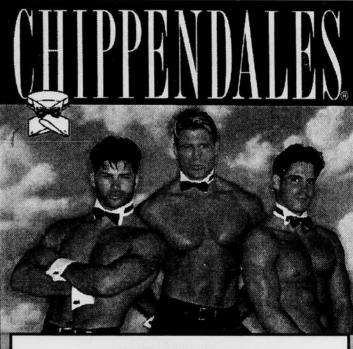
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Beloved

Continued from Page 7A up in Sethe's front yard. She attempts to become part of the family, but her haunting and childlike manner causes distress in the household.

Don't be fooled: "Beloved" is not a silly ghost story with unbelievable characters and plot. It is an insightful film about the chilling reality of slavery in America and the haunting memories it left behind.

"Beloved" strikes a chord with the audience because of its story, subject matter and intensity. It is impossible to leave the film without contemplating the horrors of slave life in the 19th century.

But the story could not be executed without a good cast, which the movie has - a great cast, in fact.

Winfrey, who was nominated for an Academy Award for her role in "The Color Purple," seems made for the role of Sethe. She has command over the character and inserts passion into her performance.

The same goes for Elise, who brings fire and fury to the character of Denver.

But it is Newton who deserves special recognition for her portrayal of the character Beloved. Her every motion is dead-on, making this potentially unbelievable character real. Expect to see an Academy Award nomination for this performance.

The cinematography "Beloved" contributes heavily to the mood of the film. Like the book on which it was based, the film is laden with earthy colors, imagery and symbolism. The expert filming captures every crucial facial expression and gesture, helping to focus attention

on the human side of each scene. Tones of brown and gray compose virtually the entire film, with speckles of color only occasional-

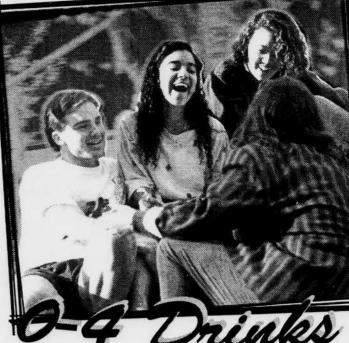
ly appearing when the mood lifts. The screenplay stays fairly true to the Morrison novel, with necessary

Amy Boytz covers entertainment for the Emerald. She can be reached via e-mail at aboytz@gladstone.uore-

most of which are merited.

neg-Party 80% of T





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