

Rhythm & Reviews

Friday, November 13, 1998

Grounds and grooves

Four acoustic bands perked up listeners Thursday at the Buzz Coffeehouse / PAGE 8A

Hooked on Phish

The acoustic foursome reels in cheers with their new release, 'The Story of the Ghost' / PAGE 3A

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Speaking the truth about Latyrx

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Bay Area hip-hop outfit Latyrx will bring their act to Eugene, this time for an all-ages show at the Wild Duck on Saturday at 8 p.m.

Latyrx features Lyrics Born and Lateef the Truthspeaker, two emcees of distinctly different styles who often rap concurrently, mixing Lyrics Born's more appropriately lyrical style with the more customary technique of Lateef.

Latyrx prides itself, in part, in maintaining its status as an underground group but admitted in a recent interview with Elixir magazine that balancing the desire to stay true to one's roots with that of new-found success is a challenge.

"That's a tough one because you want as many people as possible to hear what you are doing," Lateef said. "And your second priority would be that you want your material to be presented in the way you want it presented."

His partner agreed.

"I'd have to know the label is committed," Lyrics Born said. "We have a vision, a big picture. If it looks like the label will properly market the music, I might do it. I got into the music business because I'm a musician. We wanted people to hear our music because we are musicians."

"They were hype. The crowd knew all their lyrics, that's for sure."

Karim Panni, promoter, on the crowd at Latyrx's last show

According to show promoter Karim Panni, the group was met by an enthusiastic audience when they were last seen in Eugene on May 26, in what is not typically thought of as a bastion of hip-hop.

"They were hype," Panni said of the crowd. "The crowd knew all their lyrics, that's for sure."

Panni said part of that reaction is owed to the rising popularity of DJ Shadow.

"Shadow's large, people know him," Panni said. "And people know that Lateef and Lyrics Born have been on some of Shadow's projects."

One of those projects is the band's new label, Quantum, which is made up of Latyrx, DJ Shadow and Blackalicious.

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The underground hip-hop group from the Bay Area will perform at the Wild Duck on Saturday



Courtesy photo

Acting troupe pokes fun at piety

By Brooke Haycox
for the Emerald

The four-woman improvisational group known as Wymprov is back and expects to offend just about everyone with its new show.

The comedy troupe, which the Eugene Weekly recently voted "Best Comedy Troupe in Eugene," plans to use its talent for improvisation to demonstrate the need for a little levity when it comes to organized religion in their first theme show, "The Church of Wymprov."

"We decided to add a little spice and go with the church theme," group member Vicki Silvers said. "After all, Eugene is well known to be tolerant of a little fun when it comes to organized religion."

Silvers and the other members of Wymprov — Sally Sheklow, Debbie Martin and Enid Lefton — formed their comedy troupe seven years ago after meeting at a healing with humor workshop. The group began meeting along with other attendees of the workshop to play theater games together, which

led to their decision to take their show on the road.

Sheklow remembers the day one of the group members first made the suggestion. "The room cleared," said Sheklow, except for the four women who formed the troupe.

Since then, the group has received critical praise in the Northwest. And the group has performed to standing-room only crowds in more than 40 venues from Eugene to Bellingham, Wash.

Wymprov has used flamboyant costumes, boisterous personalities and a lot of ingenuity to parody local personalities and events, such as the June 1 tree-cutting protest. They also rewrite old songs to fit Eugene, act out their own renditions of movies such as "West Side Story," and spoof major events with skits such as "Dessert Storm."

Group members and fans attribute Wymprov's success to the way the members involve the audience in the show; in fact, the show is built around au-

Wymprov will take a humorous look at organized religion in its theme show "The Church of Wymprov." Top to bottom: Vicki Silvers, Debby Martin, Sally Sheklow and Enid Lefton.



Courtesy photo

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