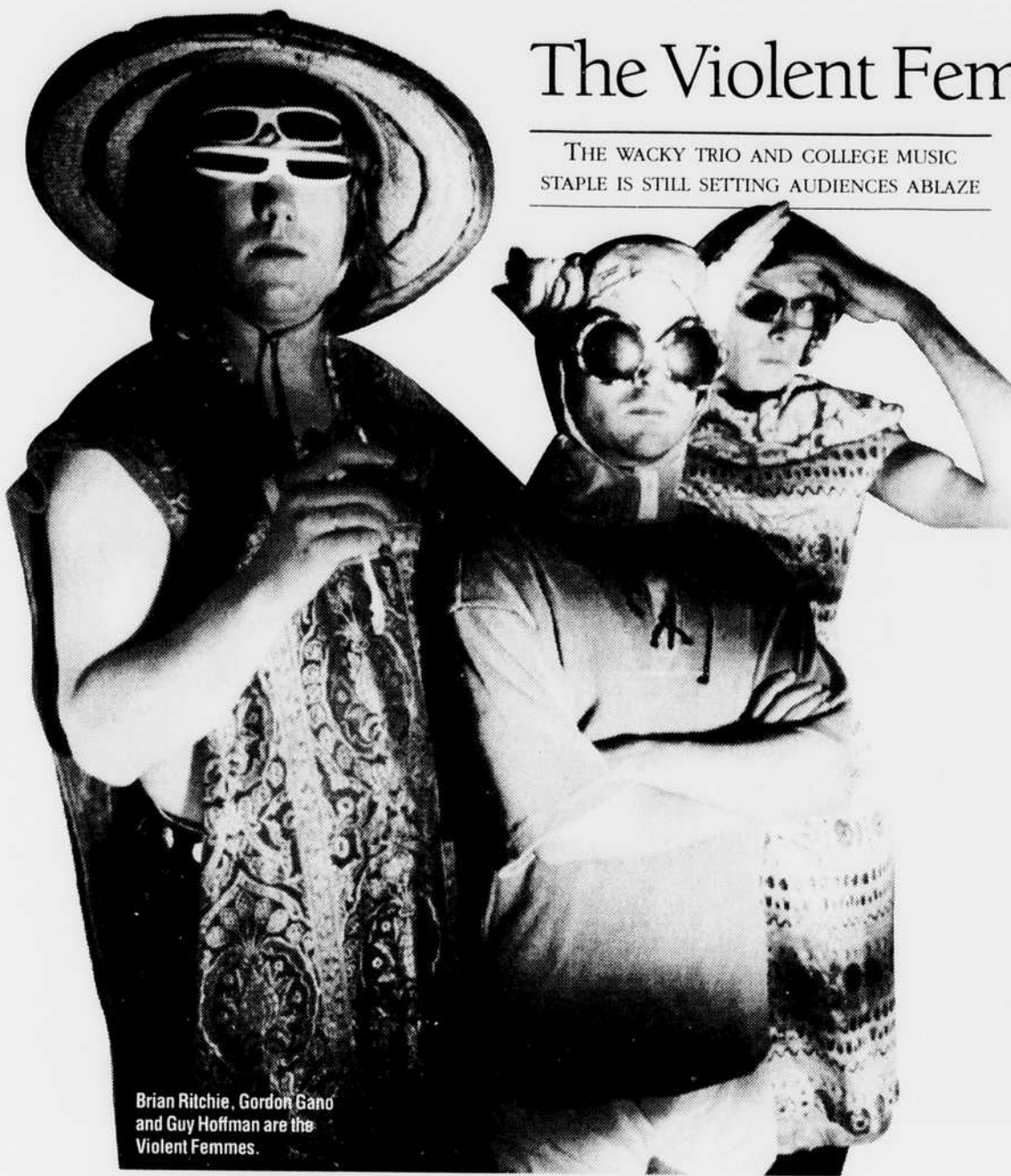


The Violent Femmes to 'blister' EMU

THE WACKY TRIO AND COLLEGE MUSIC STAPLE IS STILL SETTING AUDIENCES ABLAZE



Brian Ritchie, Gordon Gano and Guy Hoffman are the Violent Femmes.

By Bryan Petersen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Get ready, all you fans of aggressive, alternative, acoustic pop, because the band that started it all is coming Tuesday right here to the EMU.

The Violent Femmes have been a staple of college music charts for more than a decade and were alternative long before that word became a victim of overkill. The trio hails from Wisconsin and is composed of Gordon Gano singing and playing guitar; Brian Ritchie on the bass; and

Guy Hoffman, formerly of the BoDeans, on drums. (Hoffman replaced the original Femmes drummer Victor DeLorenzo in 1993).

Even though this pioneering outfit has more than six albums to its credit, including one as recent as 1994 ("New Times"), the Femmes are still best known for material they released way back in the deep, dark '80s. Songs like "Country Death Song," "Gone Daddy Gone," "Add It Up" and "Blister In The Sun" represent the band's trademark sound: energetic, humorous pop with sarcastic lyrics, played unplugged long before the term was thought of.

"Blister In The Sun" may be the one song that can be called a trademark for the band. It has been a favorite ever since its release on the band's platinum debut "Violent Femmes" in 1983, and its popularity has been regenerated in recent movies such as "Grosse Pointe Blank" and "The Wedding Singer."

Material released in the '90s

has failed to recapture the feeling of those early offerings, and perhaps the most noteworthy song the band has offered this decade was the blistering cover of Culture Club's "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?" from the 1993 album "Why Do Birds Sing?"

Live, the band has solidified its reputation by laying down its material in a tight, audience-friendly manner that tends to get the crowd really jumpin'. Former University student Mike Van Buskirk sums it up:

"I saw the Femmes a few years ago up in Corvallis.

There were about 400 people crammed into a small place, and I thought the roof was going to blow off the place.

"The Femmes just whipped the crowd into a frenzy, and they got everybody to sing along with

'Blister In The Sun' and 'Add It Up.' But they didn't even have to try, because everyone was singing along through the whole show anyway.

"I couldn't believe that three guys with acoustic instruments could rock so hard," he said.

Tickets are \$20 for students and \$25 for the general public. They can be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet or at the EMU Ticket Office.

You can also try your luck at winning tickets by entering two separate contests: The EMU food service center has an on-line contest at www.emufoodservice.uoregon.edu, and Face the Music has a traditional drop-box contest in its store on 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street.



Coming Up

Who: Violent Femmes

When: April 6 at 8 p.m.

Where: EMU Ballroom

Tickets: \$20 for students, \$25 for the general public

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Learning Channel presents 'Intimate Universe' series

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Want to see a sword-swallower's vocal cords? Or watch a British lord get drunk? Tune in to the Learning Channel for "Intimate Universe: The Human Body."

"Fantastic Voyage," the 1966 movie showed scientists miniaturized to microscopic size and injected into a living body. But that was science fiction. The BBC, using medical advances, presents the real thing, peering into the workings of the heart, womb and other organs in four one-hour segments on TLC Sunday and Monday, April 18-19 at 9 p.m. EDT. (The final four hours will be shown Aug. 1-2, preceded by a repeat of the first segments.)

Robert Winston, the tour guide, is man of many talents. He can be addressed as Doctor (he is a renowned expert on infertility), Professor (he teaches at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School), or Lord (he holds a non-inherited seat in Britain's House of Lords).

But in a telephone interview from London, he seemed to shun any such formality.

"What I think we may have achieved," he remarked, "is to demonstrate that you can make perfectly respectable science entertaining."

He cited some television firsts

for "Intimate Universe": imaging of the brain, neurons firing, and the use of endoscopy, where a slim fiber-optic tube records such things as a fetus growing inside the womb and the vocal cords of a sword swallower.

"Intimate Universe" took Winston from French caves to Egypt, from Yellowstone National Park to Kenya.

"It's a way of relaxation," he said.

But not always. At one point he was supposed to film in Guatemala. But

he and the producer were too tired to travel there so they shot the segment on the Thames River.

To demonstrate the body's reaction to alcohol, Winston did something rather undoctory and unlordly: He got drunk, on camera.

The scene was shot in a London restaurant. Winston drank more than two bottles of wine, "and demonstrated that I can't hold my liquor very well."

"It's really quite a difficult thing to do. It's quite lonely, getting drunk on your own, with a camera and a large crew watching you. You feel quite exposed."

Another episode explaining the effects of morning sickness required him to get seasick.

"That was a bit of a fake, to tell you the truth," he confessed.