

Joules Graves, Dan Bern headline Willamette Valley Folk Fest



Coming Up

What: Willamette Valley Folk Festival; a weekend of music presented by the UO Cultural Forum

Headlining acts: Seattle's Joules Graves, Boston's Dan Bern and Boulder, Colo.'s The Floodplain Gang

When: All weekend, beginning at 1 p.m. today and ending Sunday at 8:30 p.m.

Where: Five different campus venues

Cost: Free

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL WILL FILL THE WEEKEND WITH MUSIC AND FOOD

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

With three weeks left in spring term, University students are probably starting to think about final exams or papers. Tony Kullen's year-end project will be judged by thousands of people this weekend.

Kullen is the heritage music coordinator for the UO Cultural Forum, and the Willamette Valley Folk Festival is his undertaking. Although

Kullen admits he got by with more than a little help from his friends, after

sifting through more than 100

submissions, he enjoyed final say over the musical line-up.

The revelry, known as the oldest folk festival in the Pacific Northwest, kicks off today at 1 p.m. with Kellee Bradley delivering traditional Celtic numbers. By the time The Floodplain Gang closes the show Sunday night at 8:30, more than 60 acts will have entertained the crowds.

"I tried to make a program in which the acts complemented each other, with a nice blend of music," Kullen says. "There's been some comment that it's short on more traditional music, like cultural music or African drumming, but part of that is that there are many definitions of folk music."

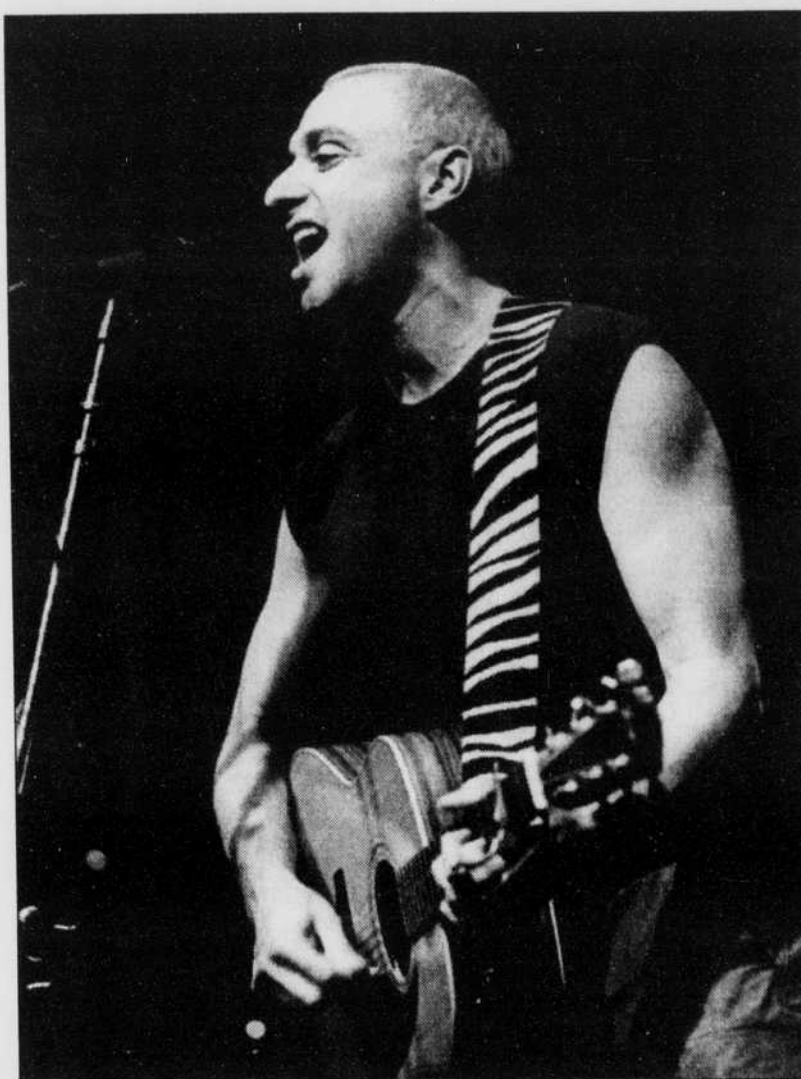
The headliners for the three-day show, which will be spread out over five campus venues, are Seattle musician Joules Graves, well known to Eugene audiences; Boston's Dan Bern, who is compared to Bob Dylan but with a more modern slant to his social commentary; and The Floodplain Gang from Boulder, Colo., called an experimental bluegrass band with a blend of rock 'n' roll.

Graves has played this area innumerable times, and she wows audiences with her mix of music, using a djembe drum, a guitar and her voice, which teachers once called "too unusual." She'll close the festival tonight.

Bern is a wildcard selection, Kullen says, because his style may step on people's toes with his harsh and wide-ranging critiques. Nonetheless, he'll bring intensity and passion to the stage for Saturday night's wind up.

"He pushes the edges sometimes, but there's value in that," Kullen says. "But he pokes fun at everyone and doesn't single out any one group."

Closing the event Sunday is a band relatively new to Eugene. The Floodplain Gang has played here just twice, Kullen says, but they arrive with the title of Best New Band at the



Courtesy photo

Boston musician Dan Bern and Seattle-based Joules Graves (left) will play at the festival.

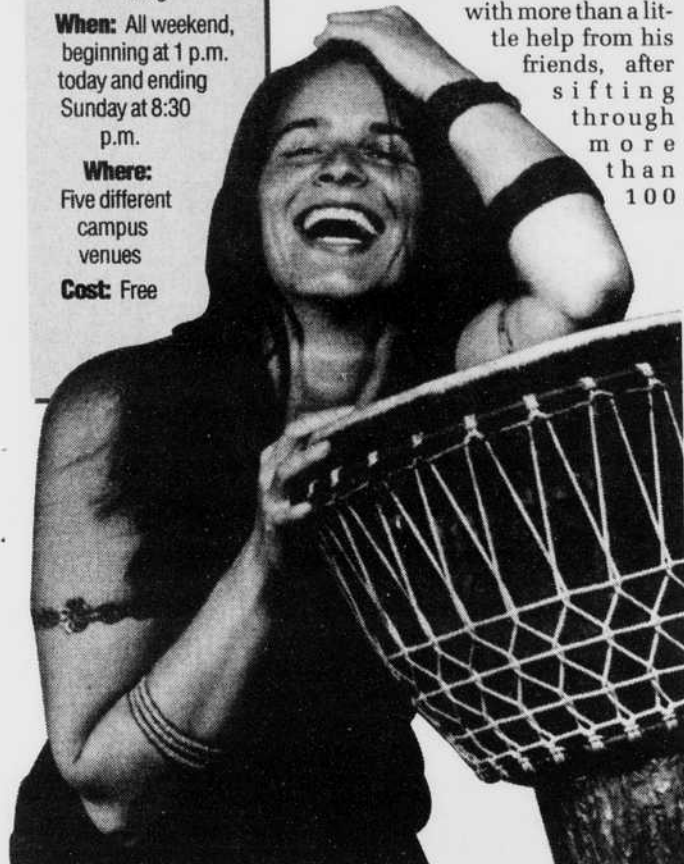
1998 Telluride Bluegrass Festival.

"There's this current resurgence of bluegrass, and this band plays a unique kind of bluegrass," Kullen offers. "It sounds as if they have listened to psychedelic music and folk music, but kept the bluegrass mood."

The last outdoor concert on campus grounds, the Oregon Grind, met an early end due to harsh weather.

Kullen accepts the reality that rain is a likelihood for the folk festival, but he doesn't expect more hail, which did in the Grind. If the wet stuff remains as rain, Kullen says the show is on.

On-site food and craft booths will satisfy anyone's hunger and spending urges. Dogs aren't allowed, and alcohol is also a no-no.



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University of Oregon Cultural Forum presents



Sunny Day Real Estate

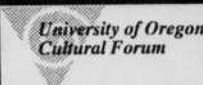
with opening bands **Juno** and **Lucky Me**

When: Wednesday, May 26, doors open at 6:00pm, showtime 6:45pm, Sunny Day on at 8:15 following openers

Where: EMU Ballroom, UO Campus

Tickets: \$14 UO Students, \$18 General Public, on sale now at EMU ticket office, House of Records and CD World

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