

# ENTERTAINMENT

PULSE EDITOR: MONICA HANDE

## Shake your pelvis with the Red Elvises tonight



Courtesy Photo

The Red Elvises make a stop at the WOW Hall tonight to promote their seventh album, "Shake Your Pelvis." They blend Russian influences with elements of surf music and add a flair of fun to deliver roudy, outrageous shows that attract large audiences.

■ Russian surf rock quartet will deliver a raucous show at the WOW Hall just in time for Halloween in Eugene

By Josh Ryneal  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Red Elvises, hailing from the desolate expanse of ice and snow known as Siberia, are bringing their self-described "kick-ass rock 'n' roll" to the WOW Hall this Halloween.

The band is returning to Eugene with their outrageous costumes, oversized guitars and a notoriously raucous live show in support of their seventh album, "Shake Your Pelvis."

If last year's show is any indication, the band will bring the same sweaty, sequined party rock to the WOW Hall, and perhaps bring along a few Halloween surprises as well.

The band formed in 1996, when Oleg Bernov, Zhenya Kolykhanov and Igor Yuzov all met up with a Texas drummer and started cranking out their unique blend of Russian influences and elements of surf music.

The combination of surf music, traditional Russian music, and rock 'n' roll is not supposed to be taken all that seriously.

"It's a joke, to make the music sound happy," said Kolykhanov, the Red Elvises' lead vocalist. "It's like Dr. Zhivago on steroids."

Bernov, who plays a giant, triangular bass based on the balalayka, a traditional Russian instrument, said that the Red Elvises play "happy, party music."

"It's music you play when you learn how to play music," Bernov said. "We get out and have a good time, and it's infectious."

He said the band enjoys playing in Eugene because the crowds are "always very, very happy and responsive."

Avi Sills, a former resident of Eugene and the band's current drummer, said, "It's really fun music; we take everything fun about music and put it in our shows."

"We're all about takin' it back to the origins of music — having fun," he said. "It's not about standing on stage and looking cool. We're not cool at all; we're a bunch of idiots."

Sills played the WOW Hall as a drummer many times before he hooked up with the band, and said he enjoys playing in Eugene.

With their new album, the Red Elvises have tried to take their music in a new direction, adding some electronic influences to their traditional rock.

"It's kind of disco-ey, and it's got some samples and electronic drumming," Kolykhanov said. "The vibe is different, but it's still a party album."

The Red Elvises play the WOW Hall tonight. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door and are available at the WOW Hall, the EMU ticket office, Face the Music, House of Records and Taco Loco. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and the show begins at 9 p.m. Costumes are strongly encouraged. For more information, call 687-2764.

## The true meaning behind Halloween

### SCRIBBLES OF SANITY

JAYNA BERGERSON

■ Although it is now the second biggest retail holiday, Halloween has humble beginnings

Halloween: A day for scary movies, plastic masks, delicious sweets, elaborate costumes and huge parties.

Halloween has been observed for more than a millennium, but the original Halloween had nothing to do with fake blood or sugar highs. Its roots are unrecognizable to those of us who are used to the mega-market holiday of today. Halloween was recognized in Celtic tradition Oct. 31, but it was originally known as "Samhain," which means "end of summer." On Samhain, Celts believed supernatural forces such as ghosts, devils and witches were free to wander where ever they wished.

To combat the influx of evil powers, a priestly class of Celts known as Druids carried out certain rituals. Bonfires, which represented the sun to the Celts, were lit on each hilltop surrounding the village to help the Druids in their fight against the dark powers.

On Samhain the people would dress up and paint their faces to "blend in" with the ghosts, witches, devils and fairies that walked

among them on this day. It was believed it might offer them some protection against mischief. This was where the tradition of dressing up in a costume came into being.

Trick-or-treating also is rooted in ancient custom. People would leave treats on their doorsteps for fairies and good spirits for luck in the coming year.

The custom of carving jack o' lanterns is believed to have come from an old Irish custom of creating lanterns out of vegetables. Once a lighted candle was placed inside, it was believed that the light would drive away evil spirits.

The ancient traditions were changed as Christianity spread across Europe. According to Historychannel.com, Pope Boniface IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day. It was believed that he did this in order to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related but church-sanctioned holiday. Variations of the traditions of Samhain continued.

The Halloween holiday as we know it became popular for the first time in the 1920s and 1930s. Costumes became more detailed and decorations were suddenly in demand. Today, Halloween is the second biggest retail holiday, next to Christmas. According to the Halloween Association Report, sales in 2000 are estimated to be about \$6 billion in costumes, candy and decorations. The National Confectioners' Association has projected that candy sales alone will reach \$1.93 billion this Halloween.

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This three-year term is open to any community member, including a student, faculty member, or employee of the University of Oregon.

To express your interest in the position, please send a cover letter and one-page resume to:  
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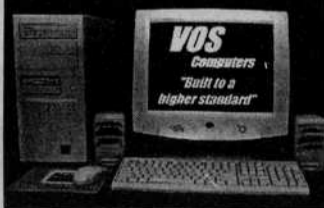
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