

Pulse

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No Promo Photo of the Week??
This week's selection has been demoted to the Emerald's Web page due to little space.

Thursday, July 12, 2001

A nice crowd makes for a better show

First, rumors that local house-party rockers **Compact 56** have disbanded are not entirely true. The group has made a slight line-up change and relocated to Portland, but they are still ready to rock 'n' roll.

Now, on to the week, which this time starts on Sunday at Taylor's Bar and Grille. Although the corner campus watering hole is a prime place to

spot some Emerald staff members, Mr. Lang usually doesn't find the joint to be his cup of Jaegermeister.

But Sunday, Taylor's hosted an acoustic storytime session with former Soul Coughing lead singer/songwriter **Mike Doughty**, who rolled out old hits such as "Is Chicago, Is Not Chicago," "Soft Serve" and "Circles," along with some solo work from his new album, "Skittish." About 60 people sat on the floor and in chairs around the small platform stage to hear Doughty, alone with only an acoustic guitar to protect him, deconstruct the Soul Coughing songs into amazingly crisp, jazzy chords and notes that matched his trademark jumpy, raspy vocals.

Although he graciously indulged the crowd's desire for the familiar songs, he quickly established that he would take no guff, stopping in the middle of his first song to give a "shh-hhh" to two guys talking near the stage, then picking up the song again without missing a beat.

But his multiple profanity-laden cries for silence didn't stop the crowd from calling out continued requests for his biggest hits, even though his set list was quite evident laying on the stage next to him. This included one girl who whined to hear "Circles" over and over even after Doughty said it was on the list.

If you, dear readers, take anything to heart in this column, let it be this call to reform and become more civilized concertgoers. Practically, the band has a set list for a reason — to play those songs. Philosophically, the people you see on stage have chosen to share their music with you. Sure, you paid your money to get in the door, but that doesn't mean you can take that money and throw it at the act and demand it dance for you like some monkey in a cage. Be glad when someone like Doughty comes to Eugene at all — and is even willing to play old songs from his former band that doesn't exist anymore.

Also, a good audience member doesn't shout out quippy little one-liners at the act. Fight the urge, no matter how funny or poignant you think your comment is. Resist the penis envy of the band being on the stage and you being on the floor. We came to see a rock show, not improv stand-up night at the comedy hole.

Now, less rant, more music.

On Tuesday, Eugene indie acoustic

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Jeremy Lang
The Be-In



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Duke, the manager of The Hollywood Taxi in Springfield, takes a moment to look around the stage. With bands performing six nights a week, so everything must always be ready.

HOLLYWOOD FREAKS FROM THE HOLLYWOOD SCENE

Anything goes at The Hollywood Taxi, which is drawing a wide variety of rock acts and rock fans alike

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

There's a place where about 300 people can cram in to see shows from the likes of Dee Dee Ramone, Eric Burden and the Animals, and local acts like The Snukas and The Courtesy Clerks.

The decorations on the walls are just as varied as the bands that play among them. Album covers from Simon and Garfunkel share the same space as The Scorpions and U2's "War" record. Legends like John Wayne and The Marx Brothers watch from their painted-on spots against the wall as the audience members grab a drink and crowd around the small stage to watch the night's act play.

To find this place, just get in the car, jump over the bridge and head for Springfield.

With the help of its acts and

atmosphere, The Hollywood Taxi in Springfield is an emerging venue to see live rock music and small-time acts that could be the next big thing.

In the driver's seat of the Taxi is a manager named Duke — just Duke, he said.

"You don't ask Madonna for her last name," he said, shyly skirting away from the lens of the photographer taking pictures of the place.

Duke's been part of the local music scene for about the past 20 years, working with stage, sound and light systems for a number of bars and venues in the Eugene area. But eventually, he said, he got tired of just lugging equipment around and wanted to put his knowledge to use on a venture of his own.

"I wanted a place where I could go myself," he said.

"There's nothing like the energy of a really good show."

Duke got the name for the Taxi from '80s rock staple Poison. Frontman Bret Michaels reportedly named his Harley Davidson motorcycle the Hollywood Taxi, and Duke figured the name's history would fit well with the rock 'n' roll style he wanted the place to have — and the venue's rowdy past.

Before he took over in October 1997, the venue was a country/western bar with a mechanical bull and an occasional bar fight.

Although the audience shouldn't hold its breath for a country act to walk onstage, Duke said he wanted to create a place that featured much more than just hard-core rock.

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'Spaced' invaders landing at 32nd Country Fair

Themed '2001: A Spaced Odyssey,' this year's fair will feature music, vaudeville and an educational 'Energy Park'

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

By tomorrow, the ordinarily sleepy Veneta countryside will be transformed into another world where mimes, jugglers and acrobats abound, where the food is all-natural and clothing is optional.

Friday kicks off the 32nd annual Oregon Country Fair, which will run through Sunday. Held in the woods of Veneta several miles west of Eugene, the event is a local tradition with a reputation for being an event unlike any other.

Fair organizers say this year is shaping up to be no different. There will be 12 stages, with entertainers scheduled to appear every day of the fair from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Entertainment acts scheduled include juggling and vaudeville acts as well as musical performances featuring a wide range of styles such as gospel, reggae, swing, Latin funk and

"psychedelic rock."

All food sold at the fair — from 50 vendors — will be made on the site, spokesman Robert DeSpain said. In addition, there will be 700 artisans in 250 booths selling various hand-crafted jewelry, art and other items.

The theme of this year's fair is "2001: A Spaced Odyssey." Fair organizers chose the theme as a parody of the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey," and as a nod to the stereotype of the "spaced hippie," DeSpain said.

Last year, attendance at the fair totaled 41,000, said Lisa Lawton, a spokeswoman for the Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County. She expects attendance levels to be similar this year.

Eugene resident Sandra Koelle said she decided to attend the fair for the first time this year after hearing about it from others.

"It has a reputation of being an experience not to be missed," she said.

While the fair is known for fun and entertainment, organizers also concentrate on raising social awareness. This year, in response to recent ener-



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The Oregon Country Fair has a reputation for uniqueness, and fair organizers expect this year's event to uphold that tradition.

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