

Entertainment Editor:  
Jeremy Lang  
jlang@dailymerald.com

There's a new sheriff in town  
Siegfried and Roy return for their sophomore  
effort as Promo Photo of the Week. PAGE 8

Thursday, August 2, 2001

## MTV, TRL, and 20 fun filled years

Welcome, fair readers, to the all-video installment of The Be-In, inspired by MTV's big 20th birthday and the fact that a couple of juicy tidbits from last week got hacked at the knees by the gods of copy editing because I gushed for too long about the magic of Spike Jonze.

So first, **Cake**. MTV has been playing semi-regularly the video for "Short Skirt/Long Jacket," the first single from their hot-off-the-presses "Comfort Eagle" album. The clip is the latest brain child

from raving egomaniac and Cake frontman John McCrea, who also plopped down in the director's chair for the video. It plays like a man-on-the-street report where, as the song plays, people listen to the single on headphones and give their opinions.

And — get out! You're kidding me! — everybody likes it! Old, young, black, white — it

doesn't matter. McCrea has unified the world under one flag that flaps in the wind to promote "a girl with good dividends" who "is changing her name from Kitty to Karen."

OK, so there are a couple people who slam the song. One is the stereotypical elderly person who just doesn't get that rock 'n' roll music. The other is a wise adult who basically criticizes how pop music all sounds the same. But Mr. Lang hardly can consider those dissents based on the song itself, or enough to keep from considering the video from being personal, artistic masturbation by McCrea.

As for MTV itself, four of the channel's bigwigs, including VJ Carson Daly and newsman Kurt Loder, sat down with Charlie Rose on Sunday. During the interview, Judy McCarthy, who has been involved behind the camera since the channel started, said the "I" in "I want my MTV" has always been the most important thing to the video channel. And, of course, it wasn't long before Daly's Total Request Live came into the conversation, and Carson began his spiel about it being controlled by the viewers. Previously, Daly as even called the show — where requests determine the top 10 for the day — a mini-democracy.

McCarthy and Daly's comments exposed much of the hypocrisy on which MTV has built its empire.

For starters, "I" in "Mr. Lang wants his MTV" must feature the now-defunct "120 Minutes" show. From midnight to 2 a.m. each Sunday, the show had videos, interviews and live performances from a variety of acts that would fall into the broad "indie" category. Videos ranging from **The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion** to **Tricky** ran next to videos from national acts like **The Red Hot Chili Peppers**, **Radiohead** and **The Bloodhound Gang**. Frequently, videos on the show became the next big thing during the day.

Now, the show is on MTV's sister all-music channel, M2, and the old Sun-

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Jeremy  
Lang  
The Be-In



Courtesy photo

Local Tool enthusiasts will get the chance to see lead singer Maynard James Keenan up close and personal, thanks to the band's decision to add a show at the Hult Center to their tour circuit.

## A smaller kind of ROCK

■ Tool surprises fans with the last-minute addition of a Hult Center appearance to their small-venue tour of the West Coast

By J.J. Burkart  
for the Emerald

The Hult Center departs from its usual fare of high culture and fine arts by opening its doors to Tool on Sunday night.

Fans began lining up around the Hult Center last Friday, anticipating a sold-out show. About 2,500 lucky people scored tickets to see one of rock music's most sought-after bands.

But many Tool enthusiasts missed the Hult Center boat as the show sold out in 68 minutes.

The Los Angeles-based heavy-metal quartet kicked off a mini-tour in Denver on Aug. 3. Tool was scheduled to make only one stop in Oregon, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland, but the band surprised fans with a last-minute addition of a Eugene stop to the roster.

"This was a bizarre version of a nor-

mal process," said Carol Brubaker, the marketing and public relations manager for the Hult Center.

"The whole tour was put together very quickly. The promoters saw a good market in Eugene," she said.

The Hult Center joins nine other small West Coast stages Tool chose for this tour. Many fans said they are excited to experience the band's heavy sounds in a smaller venue.

"This rocks. I tried to get tickets for the Portland show, but it sold out too fast," said freshman physics major and Tool fan Andreas Tsiboukis, who did score tickets to the Eugene show.

Tool's popularity enables them to sell out large arenas, something they will attempt to do on this fall's U.S. arena tour. Their rumbling bass riffs, ferocious guitar licks and angst-filled vocals transform any venue into a cauldron of primal energy as the crowd swirls with the music.

"Even though I didn't get tickets, I think it's cool that they're playing small shows," junior humanities major Ben Hubert said.

"It's just a different feeling in a smaller  
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# BRIGHT LIGHTS, NO MONEY

■ After braving Vegas on a budget, one Emerald staffer shares her tips for success

By Carol Rink  
Oregon Daily Emerald

LAS VEGAS — It's the land of Elvis, bright lights, awestruck tourists and money flowing everywhere you look. This was my perception of the "Glitter City" before my three-day adventure last weekend. I wanted to see and experience everything

from a glamorous Vegas show to fat, sweaty guys in silk shirts and lots of gold jewelry begging the dealers for another round.

But as a college student, I quickly learned that my Vegas excursion would be different. I had to travel on a budget and spend as little as possible, especially with rent due the week I returned.

My mission was simple: To make Vegas a "\$5.99 All-You-Can-Eat" buffet kind of town, not a ritzy champagne celebration, and let the entertainment come at a cheap price. I've compiled some tips on how to succeed if you want to try Vegas "on the cheap" as well.

### Tip one:

Before you arrive in the land where anything goes, reserve a room at a hotel on the strip, or

not too far off it. This will come in handy after a long night of cocktails and havoc, and it will save you from a wild ride in a taxi.

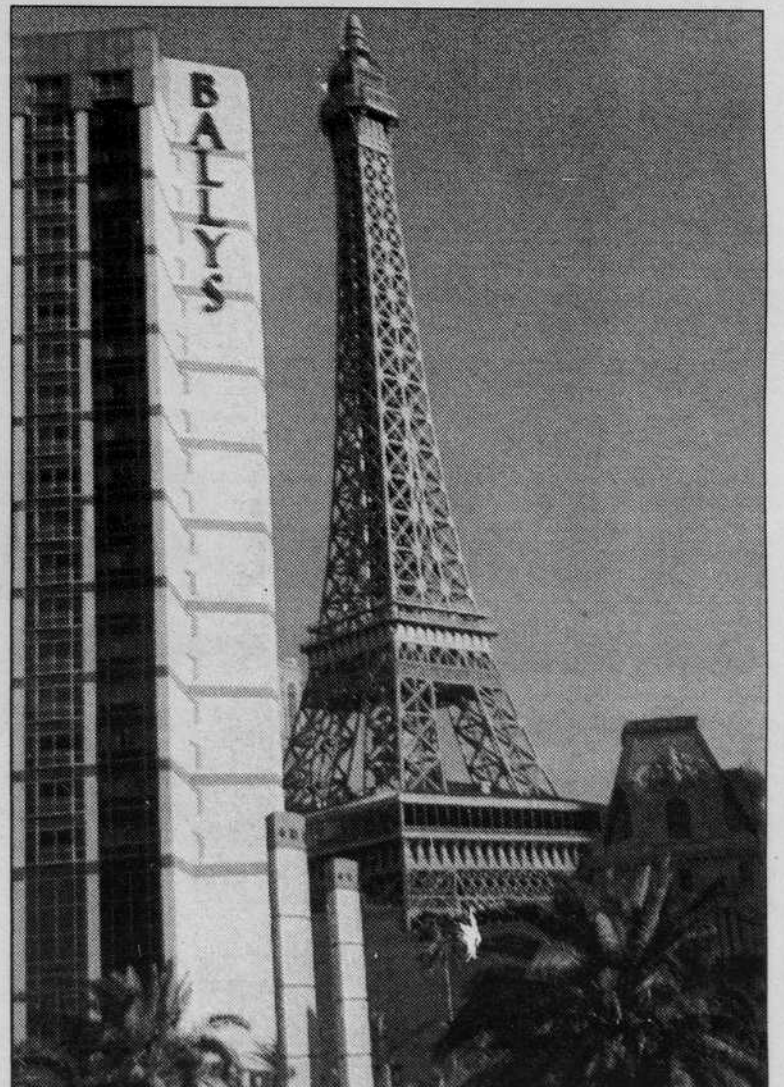
The first flaw in my friend's and my weekend getaway plan was ignoring the simple step of making a hotel reservation. By the time Friday night rolled around, desperately wanting a bed to sleep on, we found ourselves stumbling along from hotel to hotel looking for a vacant room at 2 a.m.

My salvation came in the form of the Bourbon Street Hotel & Casino. It didn't look too shabby from the outside, but things turned south real quick once I got the \$50-a-night room. With more mirrors in the room than a porn star would know what to do with, I figured the bar and casino downstairs would make things better. The real Bourbon Street is a great place to get drunk, but in Vegas no one seemed to care how many \$1 drafts I knocked back, or that I was stuck playing Austin Powers quarter slots.

### Tip two:

Morning hunger pains drove my travel companion and me downstairs to the steak-and-egg special. Unless you like to eat breakfast with people who are so hung over they can't brave the sunlight to get food elsewhere, opt for a real buffet in a nice hotel. Although you can find a bargain buffet on every

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Carol Rink Emerald

Bright lights and glamorous hotels and casinos offer visitors a wide selection of uniquely themed places to see in Las Vegas even if they're broke.