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■ Sunday ■
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■ Wednesday ■
Dick Dale, Boss Martians, Throw Rag
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Pulse briefs

IRC offers conversations about traveling

The International Resource Center's "Travel Talks," a series of lectures about people who gallivant around the world, begins today.

The program is an opportunity for participants to learn about the traveling experiences of individuals and various organizations.

Today's talk will feature Bob Pederson, a Eugene resident who decided to follow his dream and

travel around the world without using an airplane. He said his talk will center "around independent travel and how that relates to meeting people."

"The friends, the acquaintances and the memories of relationships last forever," he said. "You may never see or hear from that person again, but the image of that meeting is forever in your mind. The people — that is what travel is all about."

Pederson's talk begins at 7 p.m. and lasts until 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The second talk, held at 7 p.m. on March 7, will feature Rosetta Russo, who traveled to places such as Kenya, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and Australia. For more information about Travel Talks, call the IRC at 346-0887.

— Lisa Toth

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Vinyl enthusiasts can dig up new treasures

Even after collecting records for 30 years, House of Records employee Fred Murschall knows he'll never run out of records he wants. Though he is surrounded by vinyl for most of the week, the constant pursuit of more music

keeps him going back to the annual Eugene Record Convention year after year.

This year's convention, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Eugene Hilton, marks the 14th year of operation. Eugene resident Bill Finneran organized the first show in 1988 and has kept it running ever since. Finneran said since its creation, the Eugene Record Convention has become the biggest record show in the Northwest.

"When you have it once a year, you get everybody there," he said. "Seattle and Portland shows are watered down because they have one almost every week."

With 100 tables at the convention, Murschall said it's impossible to look at all of them. But after going for years on end, he has a few vendors whose tables he visits first. Also, his familiarity with records gives him an added edge.

"I can see the top half inch of a record cover and tell what it is," he said.

Finneran said aside from buying music, the convention is a place to get to know people with a common interest. Finneran added that the convention is designed to cater to both those who are prepared to pay top dollar for records as well as those who only want to buy mer-

chandise for a few dollars. "You can find stuff for next to nothing, and there's stuff for hundreds of dollars," he said.

Murschall said he will buy both \$1 and collectable records, but he has noticed a trend toward records for everyday use.

"The only record that commands a collectable price is one that hasn't been played very much. A lot of people nowadays are buying records just to play them," he said. "Records are a way kids can collect music they want fairly inexpensively."

Even famous musicians can score a cheap deal. Finneran recalled five years ago when Beck showed up at the convention while passing through Salem on tour.

"He spent about 20 minutes looking through my \$1-record section," he said.

There is a \$2 admission charge to the convention, but Finneran said that is lower than most other record shows.

"I keep it low so people bring their spouse and kids and friends — people who aren't intensely interested. But when they get there, they get really excited," he said.

— Mason West

Monologues

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excited, mainly because no one's ever asked them before."

The monologues and transitions are composed of the stories Ensler gathered, sometimes intact from one source and sometimes combinations of many.

Sociology major Mariah Castle said the show is "about voices coming together to create one big message." Castle, a sophomore, is one of 24 actors in a cast that comprises women ranging from age 16 to 40, though the play only calls for 7 to 10 performers. Borman said after having 60 women audition, she had to cast as many of them as she could. Her solution was expanding the "vulva choir," the equivalent of a Greek chorus, which is where Castle was cast.

The vulva choir is also a term applied to all the women who have participated in "The Vagina Monologues," and it is an all-star list, including actors such as Oprah Winfrey, Winona Ryder, Calista Flockhart and Gillian Anderson.

Winfrey and Flockhart joined the ranks last year when they each performed one of two new monologues written by Ensler. College directors have the option of adding

the two new pieces to the performance and Borman chose to do so despite some "mixed feelings."

"There are some things in the script that I don't agree with, but I'm willing to respect her (Ensler's) vision and get her message out," Borman said.

Borman gained a deeper respect for Ensler after meeting her during a workshop held by the author in December.

"She's very inspiring, and she really wanted to empower us," Borman said. "But I'm not so idealistic to think anymore that this play is without an agenda; it's definitely political drama."

Castle said the message she wants people to take from the play is one of liberation.

"I would want people to recognize that women's sexuality is a normal thing and should be accepted in society," she said.

While Castle and Borman readily acknowledged that "The Vagina Monologues" are about giving back to women, both said the play can offer something for the male audience if approached with an open mind.

After the conclusion of each performance, a "Vagina Dialogue" will be held with the audience, similar

to the open conversations Ensler had with the women she interviewed. Adding a twist to the familiar theme, Cultural Forum Contemporary Issues Coordinator Geoff Hoffa will hold a discussion titled "Cock Talks" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Gerlinger Lounge.

"I'm definitely interested in participating in women's issues, but it's nice to present the male counterpart," he said.


Hoffa's main goal will be opening a sincere dialogue between men about their sexuality, but he also plans on presenting a few penis monologues. However, he said he will mostly rely on members of the audience bringing pieces they have found or written in an "open mic" style.

"Men will be skeptical as to how we can talk about this publicly," Hoffa said. "For something like this to really take off, I think there needs to be the male equivalent of Eve Ensler."

Hoffa contacted "V-Day" coordinators through the headquarters in Boston for some helpful direction, but he said the response was friendly, if to the point: "Sorry, we're all about vaginas."

E-mail reporter Mason West at masonwest@dailyemerald.com.

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