

# FEATURES

**Features Editor:**  
Lisa Toth  
lisatoth@dailymerald.com

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Wednesday, February 20, 2002



Courtesy photo

## Can't buy me Love

**Musician**  
Laura Love says her songs won't be written with an eye toward profits

By Jen West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Political and environmental issues are not always debated by politicians. Through her music, Laura Love discusses global issues in a serious but entertaining way.

After two years away from Eugene, the Laura Love Band returns Sunday to WOW Hall with special guest Laura Kemp. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15.50 in advance and \$18 at the door plus applicable fees. Tickets may be purchased at WOW Hall, Fastixx, CD World, House of Records and the UO Ticket Office.

Though the band has been known for its "Afro-Celtic" style, Love said she also incorporates bluegrass and

funk into her music.

"I like high, lonesome, mournful sound with a joyous beat," she said.

Love said she will be promoting her latest CD, "Fourteen Days," at the performance.

"She connects with the audience in an earthy kind of way," said concert producer Mike Meyer. "She has so much fun when she's playing."

Love said that, through her singing and song writing, she deals with current political issues such as the attack on the World Trade Center and the U.S. economic crisis.

"I feel very frustrated," Love said. "I'm one of those people who will write to my senator or congressman."

Love said she enjoys playing in Eugene because she thinks many audience members share her views.

"I like the liberal vibe (of Eugene) — the left-leaning feel," she said. "It's crowded with hippies like me."

Love said she tries to be honest in her music, which she said she is able to do because she doesn't have to report to a boss. She said many mainstream performers may be well-paid, but they have to sing and write songs that will gain the approval of their employers.

Artists "start making music with an eye toward sales instead of saying what (they) want to say," Love said.

But she said riches do not bring happiness, and she would avoid situations where other people would control what she sings.

"The whole world right now is really understanding that when we let huge corporations do whatever they want to do, everything is for sale,"

she said. "Everything becomes a commodity."

For her next project, Love said she is publishing her memoirs in a book entitled, "You Ain't Got No Easter Clothes." She said the book, which will be released late this year, will chronicle her experiences growing up in Nebraska.

Love and Kemp "are real creative songwriters," Meyer said. "Both have very positive, upbeat types of performances."

Kemp, formerly of the band Babes with Axes, is a local talent, Meyer said, adding that she will be a good opening act for the concert.

He said she has a Shawn Colvin-type of sound that mixes folk and blues. He said she also won the Eugene Weekly poll for Best Musician.

"She has a forceful presence on stage," he said and she has drawn a loyal following in Eugene.

Kemp said she will play a 30-minute set that will include songs from her CDs "Volcano," "Corduroy" and "Alone."

She said the time she spent living in Nashville brought a lot of bluegrass influences into her music.

"I focus a lot on my guitar work," she said. Kemp said she has been playing acoustic guitar for 27 years.

"I feel my song playing is pretty strong," she said, as she explained that most of her songs are ballads about love and relationships, and she takes other people's stories and turns them into songs.

E-mail reporter Jen West  
atjenwest@dailymerald.com

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Nokia House in Espoo, Finland, completed in 1997. Photo by Jussi Tiainen.

### Pulse briefs

#### Ice-T cancels appearance at Mac Court

Rapper Ice-T has pulled out of Sunday's McArthur Court concert with Nelly, the UO Cultural Forum announced Tuesday night.

Kurt Catlin, heritage music coordinator at the Cultural Forum, said that Ice-T's promoters cited "physical reasons" — possibly illness — as the reason for the sudden departure.

Catlin said the show will continue, and he's looking for a replacement. But he added that it will be hard to book someone with Ice-T's caliber.

"Not like Ice-T. He is old school. People know him," Catlin said, adding that he's heard more people have bought tickets because of Ice-T, not Nelly.

Catlin said the Cultural Forum isn't sure whether it will refund tickets already purchased.

The show, which starts at 7 p.m., will also feature SMG, Underground Lighthouse and Kid. Ticket prices have been reduced for a special "week of concert" sale, both for seated and

standing room only areas, and they are \$30 to \$35 for students and \$35 to \$40 for the general public. Tickets are available through Fastixx, the UO Ticket Office, Face the Music and at the door.

— Jeremy Lang

#### On the Rocks wins vocal competition

The nine-member University male a cappella group "On the Rocks" won last weekend's International Competition of Collegiate A cappella Quarterfinals, held Feb. 15-17 in Berkeley, Calif. The group beat out the top six a cappella groups in the region, including previous national champions such as the UC Berkeley's Men's Octet and regional powerhouse the Golden Overtones, also from Berkeley.

"We were so focused when we were on stage," tenor Peter Hollens said. Hollens said he called his friends during the drive back to Eugene and explained, over the excited cheers of the other members in the van, how the group "shocked everyone" with their original vocal talent.

"On the Rocks" was the only non-

California group competing at regionals.

Sophomore Chris Dobson, who sings tenor, took the Best Original Song award for "I Would Fly," and Tyler Boeh, who sings baritone and provides vocal percussion, took home the award for Best Vocal Percussion.

The UC Berkeley Cal Jazz Choir placed second in the competition and will be competing in the semifinals against "On the Rocks" March 16 at Stanford University along with other tough competitors such as the Stanford Everyday People, BYU Vocal Pint, SoCal Vocals (from USC) and UCSB Naked Voices.

The members of "On the Rocks" agreed that although they have upset some national powerhouses, the semifinal competition isn't going to be any easier.

"We're still underdogs," bass vocalist Cooper Bombadil said. "We have to remember that."

Meanwhile, the group sold 98 copies of their newly released CD, "OTR," during the trip. The CD will be available for purchase at the group's free performance at 4 p.m. Feb. 22 in the EMU Amphitheater.

— Lisa Toth

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### Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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