

PULSE briefs

Fiddle Festival to bring Celtic flavor to Eugene

A violin is for classical music, but a fiddle is for fiddling.

A trio of Celtic fiddlers known as "The Celtic Fiddle Festival" will play at WOW Hall at 8 p.m. March 6.

The trio consists of Kevin Burke from Ireland, Johnny Cunningham from Scotland and Christian LeMaitre from Brittany.

The men are from three different Celtic cultures, but they are also three good friends who share a love of the same instrument.

The trio recently released their live, self-titled album on the Green Linnet label. Soig Siberil, a guitarist from Brittany, will accompany the group for this performance.

Tickets are \$21.50 in advance and \$24 at the door and are available at WOW Hall, the EMU

Ticket Office and Fastixx. For more information, call WOW Hall at 687-2746.

— *Alix Kerl*

Dead Kennedys bring audiences to life

The Dead Kennedys, a popular punk band of the late 1970s and early 1980s, is proving that they can still reach audiences with a reunion tour that will bring them to Eugene. But they will perform without founding member Jello Biafra.

The band goes on at 8:30 p.m. March 4 at the Wild Duck with opening band Spread Eagle. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance and \$15 at the door, plus applicable service charges, and the performance is open to all ages.

Despite Biafra's absence, guitarist and founding member East Bay Ray said he was surprised at the reaction they received from recent audiences. He said someone had seen the band rehearsing, and word soon

hit the street that the band was performing together, which sparked a dramatic increase in ticket sales.

"I've never seen so many smiles at a punk rock show," he said.

Since the group broke up in 1986, Ray said the band members have been working on other musical projects. They began rehearsing together in November 2001 and have released "Mutiny On the Bay," their first live album.

"The audience is intelligent, more so than in the '80s," Ray said, adding that today there is not the same violent element that was always associated with their audiences in past decades.

Ray said the "action had been really good" at the recent shows. He said he expects there to be a lot of energy and some stage diving at the Eugene performance. He also said the band has been playing better now than they ever had in the past.

For more information, call the Wild Duck Music Hall at 485-3825.

— *Jen West*

Kesey

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He said the discussion groups are an excellent way to get to know people.

"It's a great place to meet singles," Landfield said, adding that there is romance in Kesey's book.

Cunningham said it took him less than five minutes to choose Kesey's book for the program.

"Kesey (was) probably the most famous author in the area," he said, adding that "Sometimes a Great Notion" contains a history of Lane County.

Cunningham said he talked to Kesey before he passed away Nov. 10, 2001, from complications after liver surgery, and he said Kesey was excited about the idea for the reading program. Kesey wanted to extend the program long enough so he could participate after he recovered from surgery.

"Interest really grew after his passing," Cunningham said, adding that many area bookstores supported the program.

He said when someone buys the book, they receive a button that shows they are part of the "Readin' in the Rain" program.

Joyce Berman, communications director for Eugene.com, said she heard about the "Readin' in the Rain" idea and decided to make it a citywide event. She also said Eugene.com provides background on the book and the author.

Berman said it was hard to know exactly how many people have become involved in the program, but she thinks it has definitely received a positive response.

Landfield said sales of "Sometimes a Great Notion" dramatically increased since the program's inception. Before the program started, he would sell about one

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Joyce Berman
communications director,
Eugene.com

copy of the book every month, but now he has sold about 300 in the past three weeks.

"I'm sure all the bookstores are selling a lot" of copies, Landfield said. "The (public) library has 100 copies, and they are all checked out."

He said he was especially excited by the program because he had always wanted to meet Kesey, and he was hoping to gain inspiration from his participation in the program.

"Sometimes a Great Notion" was far and away his best book," Landfield said. He said it has great descriptions and characterizations that are easily distinguishable to a native of the Northwest.

Landfield said the discussions are extremely helpful for readers, especially if it is their first time reading the book.

"The average reader can get a lot out of it — but it is a test of intelligence," he said.

Berman said the book tells the story of the conflict between two brothers, when one of the broth-

ers returns to the small logging community in the midst of a strike after living on the East Coast for several years.

"You really feel like (Kesey) has captured what it feels like to live (in the Northwest)," Berman said.

The discussions are not like lectures, Landfield said, and they often are accompanied by good food and entertainment.

Cunningham said he hopes the program will inspire community members to meet new people. Turnout at the various events and group discussions has been high, small groups tending to bring in between five and 10 participants and large groups bringing in between 50 and 100 participants. Out of the 23 neighborhood associations in Eugene, about half are participating, he said.

The thought within the program, according to Cunningham, was that if two people are waiting for a bus and they are both wearing the "Readin' in the Rain" buttons, it gives them the freedom to strike up a conversation with each other.

"Readin' in the Rain" will culminate in a screening of the movie "Sometimes a Great Notion" April 1 and 2 at the McDonald Theatre. The Merry Pranksters will perform at the April Fool's Day screening. Tickets are \$10 for the April 1 performance and \$20 for the April 2 performance. All proceeds will be donated to the new library and the neighborhood associations.

For more information about "Readin' in the Rain" events, visit www.eugene.com.

E-mail reporter Jen West
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Pocket

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The nine-member cast was chosen for their parts almost a month ago, after a rigorous auditioning process. The lineup includes: Nick Hamilton, Liz Jamieson, Ben Maughan, Maximilian McCal, Katie McClatchey, Cassie Schwanke, Joe Shirley, Tara Warner and Traci Vitale.

The group rehearsed Monday night, with high-energy and expression, tackling scenes that mocked everything from the war on terrorism, the Family Circus comic strip and "tuna-safe dolphin meat."

After running through one of his

scenes, Hamilton said he takes on multiple-roles in the play, including a guy in a flannel shirt called Bif Studley and a newscaster named Martha. He said the "fun, light-hearted play" hasn't been as stressful as other productions, in part because the brief scenes allow the actors to learn and rehearse quickly before show time.

"Matt is a great writer. The script is hilarious," said Hamilton, a junior architecture major. "He has a good wit, and he really knows how to make people laugh."

Lighting designer Scott Thorson, who has been programming the lighting scheme since Sunday,

added that it has been easy working with Chorpenning.

The play "is funny, and it's pretty on cue with some political remarks," the freshman architecture major said.

Hamilton, who has been involved in theater as a hobby since high school, was also in a previous Pocket Playhouse production this year, "The Swan." He encouraged students, faculty and the general community to attend the production because, "It's the best entertainment you can get for \$1 — a suggested \$1."

E-mail features reporter Lisa Toth
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THIS WEEK AT JOHN HENRY'S

MARCH 1ST

DIZZY ELMER



SWITCHBLADE HEARTS

9:30 PM

THE DANGED

MARCH 2ND



TYMPANIC

BASIC ASSUMPTION

RYTHEM PIMPS 9:30 PM

TUESDAY: COMMUNITY SOUNDS REGGAE

WEDNESDAY: HUMP BUMP W/ EL HAMMER

THURSDAY: 80'S NIGHT

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AFTER THE EVENT

THURS
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MCDONALD THEATER

FOR EVENT INFORMATION CONTACT UO CULTURAL FORUM AT 346-4373
Tickets Available Monday, February 25th at the UO EMU Ticket Office (346-4363)

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