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# Dylan concert performance predictable but enjoyable

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## Concert review

Standing atop a black-and-white checkered stage, wearing a jazzy white suit (no tie) and flanked by a pair of guitarists almost as unique in appearance as the man himself, Bob Dylan strutted his immortal stuff Saturday at McArthur Court.

The 150-minute, 18-song set started at 8 p.m. and consisted of a few standards and songs from his latest release, "Love and Theft." There were also a fair number of covers in what amounted to a comfortably subdued and surprise-free performance.

The arena was nearly full. The audience swayed mildly, with a few energetic anomalies on the fringes of the crowd. The stage was raised on the basketball court and was decorated minimally — an off-white cur-

tain backdrop and colored lights.

The "and his band" on the bill comprised four other musicians. Throughout the set, Larry Campbell switched between acoustic, electric and steel guitars, mandolin and violin. Tony Garnier played both acoustic and electric bass guitars, as well as a stand-up bass. George Receli sat behind the drum set and Charlie Sexton played a variety of electric guitars during the show, supplanted by the occasional acoustic. Campbell's musicianship was especially noteworthy.

The show opened with acoustic versions of "Maggie's Farm" and "Just Like a Woman," to the obvious delight of the diverse crowd.

Dylan did time on keyboard and acoustic and electric guitars throughout the show and picked up a harmonica for a somewhat creaky version of "Baby Blue."

Among the covers, Dylan's rendition of "Brown Sugar" was a notable jam and "Friend of the Devil" was a

perfect fit for Dead-friendly Eugene.

The most timely of the covers were three Warren Zevon songs — "Accidentally Like a Martyr," "Lawyers, Guns and Money" (both off his 1978 release "Excitable Boy") and "Mutineer." The significant number of Zevon covers indicates a likely connection to Zevon's recent announcement that he has terminal cancer and less than two months to live.

The band returned for an obligatory encore — a three-song set consisting of some of Dylan's most popular, enduring tunes — "Like A Rolling Stone," "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" and "All Along The Watchtower" before being whisked away in a black tour bus.

Ultimately, the show was not amazing, but let's face it — it's Dylan, and that's enough.

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## Soda

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options — that locked up the University's tastebuds, at a minimum, through the academic year.

But what Pepsi didn't know is that it outbid Coke by a long shot.

During blind negotiations, Coke offered the University about 40 percent of vending machine revenues plus about \$3,500 a year in contributions, Food Service Director John Costello said.

Pepsi presented a more lucrative deal, offering the University a 48-percent take of its sales and donations of about \$35,000 a year, he said.

If demand is equivalent, simple math shows Pepsi outbid Coke by more than \$30,000 per year. Despite that, though, the University still lost.

"Neither bid was as favorable as (the one) we had with Coca-Cola," Costello said.

From August 1997 until August 2002, Coke paid the University 62 percent of its vending sales and gave another \$100,000 per year to

various University funds.

While the University earned about \$125,000 in sales revenues from Coke last year, Costello said the arrangement often put the beverage company in the red. Meanwhile, the University's vending machine agreement grossed the school almost a quarter of a million dollars last year.

Historically, soft drink producers have shelled out large sums of money to buy their way onto campuses. Strangely enough, though, coffee sells better than any other food or beverage at the University. In fact, Costello estimated only about 25 percent of sales are soda-related.

"We really took a chance," Larkin said of Pepsi's decision to purchase the University's vending machine rights.

So why do it? "I think (distributors) see it as a healthy and growing market," Costello said.

Literally. Not only does the University's enrollment continue to grow, but so to do its students.

"Typically," Larkin said, "I think

brand loyalty starts to form at a younger age."

But when students want soda, they want soda. Enter Pepsi — better late than never.

"We think (loyalty is) really important," Larkin said. "I think it's the lifeblood of any big brand."

So far, opinions on Pepsi's domination have varied. Pepsi drinkers love it, Coke drinkers hate it.

At Erb Essentials, where Pepsi's bottling agreement will expire in 2003, Assistant Food Service Director Victoria Varble-Goss said she sometimes hears complaints about the one-sided selection.

Varble-Goss won't say what she'll stock when the store's agreement expires, but she does say it will have variety.

And that sits just fine with sophomore Kate Workman, who's forced to bring her Coke from home.

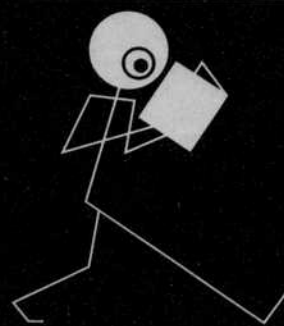
"Normally," she said, "if I'm going to buy or order a drink, I order Coke."

"You like what you like."

Contact the senior news reporter at [bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com](mailto:bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com).

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