

Pulse Editor:
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PULSE *Excite*

On Tuesday
Don't eat me!
The Pulse editor
attempts to
create a culinary
masterpiece



Thursday, October 24, 2002

Filtered culture is far from liberty

For some stupid reason, mankind is gallivanting around calling this period in human existence "the information age," as if we are any less confused about things now than we were when we ate mites off of each others' backs. It's damn hard to make sound decisions or be sure of anything anymore, and that's the only thing that makes sense.

Unfortunately, culture is now being delivered to us via giant corporations with little concern for empowering the polity. We live in a society that looks for understanding of its fellow man not through our own compassion and commiseration or through his feelings or thoughts. Instead, it judges by that man's purchasing decisions.

To paraphrase cultural critic Thomas Frank, many people fancy themselves too savvy to be duped by advertising, but advertising works at such a deep level that we often underestimate its power for shaping consciousness and identity.

Many Americans, overcome by the inanity of commercial culture, fail to see what real cultural exchange can bring to a society.

Recently, Paul Wolf and his colleagues presented a report — "COINTELPRO: The Untold American Story" — to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report detailed the atrocities committed by the FBI against social and cultural movements during its Counter Intelligence Programs (COINTELPRO) regime known to exist from 1956 through 1971.

FBI agents infiltrated hundreds of sociopolitical movements and organizations. The agency worked tirelessly to create factions within groups using violence, disinformation and scare tactics to quell movements around the country. The report quotes a former COINTELPRO Internal Security Branch Chief saying that one of the main goals of these programs was "penetration of specific channels of American life where public opinion is molded," and to prevent it from having "influence over the masses." This lends legitimacy to the idea that culture is the lens through which we view and identify with the rest of the world.

Programs like these possibly still exist, but now the FBI has a little more help. Commercial culture serves as a preemptive assault on potential movements by dividing and pacifying the public. Instead of culture creating an active, passionate



Joseph Bechard
Cultural
Obstetrician

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My House or yours?

The basement club features film, music and a forum for creativity

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

If it wasn't for the bright red sign outside 1136 West Fifth Ave., My House would be as inconspicuous as any other home in the neighborhood. However, on a given night, there is likely to be music, films and artists lurking within its walls. And the neighbors don't even complain.

My House is the brainchild of Marc Moscato and Jesse Garlick, and it's literally a basement. It opened in March and has played host to a variety of underground and independent performers. All ages are welcome at the events.

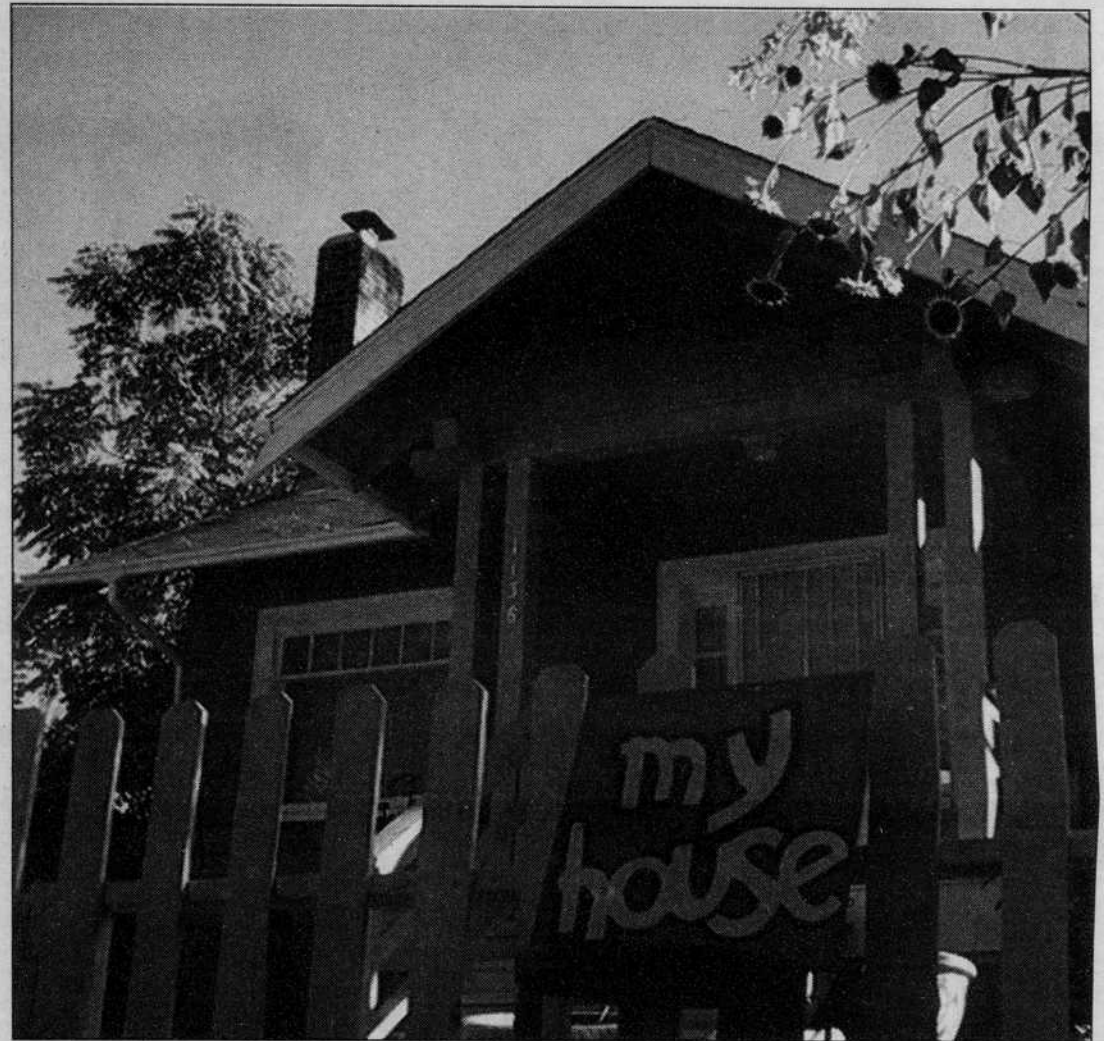
"It's not really about partying — it's about art and culture," Moscato said.

Next up on the schedule is "Lost & Found: A Weekend of Found Films" on Nov. 1 and 2. The films were shot in a variety of formats: 8-millimeter, Super 8-millimeter, 16-millimeter and regular old VHS. Some consist of loops and stock footage sewn together — notably, one entitled "Election Collectibles."

Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; each show starts at 8 p.m. There will be live music accompanying the films on Friday. The suggested donation for "Lost & Found" is \$3. Money raised at every My House show goes directly to the artists. In the house's short-but-busy history — 16 shows — no admission price has exceeded \$5.

Moscato, a University arts and administration graduate student, coordi-

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Courtesy photo

The My House founders have embraced DIY principles to make a venue for independent and underground performers.

Cellist plays Bach in unlikely venues



Courtesy photo

Cellist Matt Haimovitz will be visiting Eugene as part of his Bach "Listening Room" tour.

Matt Haimovitz opts to play cello in intimate settings; he will perform Friday night at Sam Bond's Garage

Helen Schumacher
Pulse Reporter

Bach will be coming to a bar near you this Friday, when acclaimed cellist Matt Haimovitz performs the composer's work at Sam Bond's Garage.

The Israeli-born musician is visiting Sam Bond's as part of his Bach "Listening Room" Tour. In an effort to diverge from the formality of classical music, Haimovitz is playing Bach's first three Suites for Cello Solo at taverns, jazz clubs and coffeehouses instead of the symphony halls where one might usually expect to hear this type of music.

Haimovitz is touring to promote his new album, "6 Suites for Cello Solo," which was released on Oxingale Records — an indie classical label Haimovitz and his wife started.

Haimovitz said the "Listening Room" tour gives classical music fans an opportunity to experience the music up-close and personal, as well as giving those who aren't familiar with the genre a chance to listen without feeling self-conscious.

"The music that I'm playing is really very intimate, subtle music," Haimovitz said. "I usually play 2,000 or 3,000 seat concert halls. In such spaces, it gets lost, this music."

He said Bach's compositions are a good doorway into classical music.

"Bach's cello solos are some of the most profound music. More than that the show is a wonderful way to be introduced to the music. It has such a more human aspect to it and is just as raw as anything in the rock idiom," he said.

The tour has even brought 31-year-old Haimovitz to the most unlikely of places — the legendary New York City punk rock club CBGB.

"It was an amazing place. I fell in love with it," he said. "It felt right to present something that's never been done before."

Haimovitz's performance should be a treat to classical music listeners sick of stuffy, formal concert halls and an occasion for non-listeners to broaden their aural horizons in a less-intimidating atmosphere.

The show is this Friday at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Contact the Pulse reporter at helenschumacher@dailyemerald.com.