

# Improv

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Absolute Improv rehearsal manager Nathan Loveless said the appeal of improvisational performances is two-pronged.

"Improv provides an artistic setting like that of real life — you never know what's going to happen next," Loveless said. "And there's a big opportunity for failure. An audience roots for the group and loves to see us succeed."

Williams is also a founding member of Pour Babies, a long-form musical improv group that could be funny one night and tragic the next. It all depends on the moment.

Wymprov is another local group, consisting of four women who met at a "Healing with Humor" workshop in 1991. The group has performed their short-form skits and games all over the Northwest at conferences, festivals, parties and concert halls.

The group is also being featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Oregon Art Beat" program today at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m.

McCarty said the Northwest is ex-

periencing a renaissance of improv.

"Improv is now about 50 years old," McCarty said. "It's basically reached middle-age and is finally getting the widespread recognition it deserves."

The future of improv in Eugene may be one of increased collaboration among the disparate groups to create a true improv community. McCarty, Williams and Loveless indicated they look forward to breaking down the walls.

McCarty said times definitely have begun to change.

"Some groups just a few years ago would have been very territorial," McCarty said. "But many of the groups around Eugene are totally open to collaboration because it benefits all of us."

Wymprov has competed with ComedySportz in the past and Absolute Improv will take on ComedySportz this Saturday at 8 p.m. "It should be really exciting," Williams said. "We have somewhat different audiences, so I'm really looking forward to that mix."

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at [ryanbornheimer@dailymerald.com](mailto:ryanbornheimer@dailymerald.com)

# Pink Martini

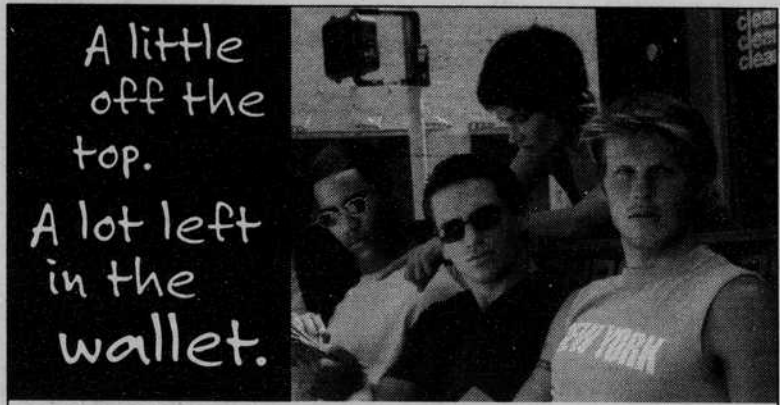
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