

# Neighbors

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during this portion of the show. I could barely hear many of the jokes that those closer to the stage obviously enjoyed. And many times, I had to crane my neck to get an idea of what she was up to with someone up front.

From here on out, the show gave equal solo performance time to the performers between games offering audience members a chance to do a little performing of their own. One spectator even received his own personal exotic dance from the performer known as Karress Ann Slaughter.

I caught up with Karress outside during a break and found out the performer was at one time a regular member of the Neighbors drag troupe, but because of scheduling conflicts, now performs "on a whim."

In addition to appearing at venues throughout the Northwest, the Neighbors performers' main function is to raise funds for such organizations as Kids First and HIV Alliance; the performers represented HIV Alliance on Saturday at Alton Baker Park's 2003 River Walk.

Karress, who has performed in drag everywhere from the University campus to the WOW Hall to Diablo's Downtown Lounge, was actually married with children before the itch to perform took over. After the divorce, friends encouraged Karress to go for it.

"It sounds funny, but friends would always tell me I had beautiful eyes and ask if I'd ever thought about doing it," Karress said. "Eventually, everything just kind of melded together and I went for it."

For Karress, the excitement of being on-stage in drag comes less from the outfits and more from the performance itself.

"I just love to entertain people," Karress said. "And the rush is unlike anything you can describe."

Nearby, one of Karress' biggest fans quickly stepped in to relay his admiration.

"This is the best dancer in



Jessica Waters Emerald

Neighbors host Francesca tucks in a tip during a vocal performance on Friday.

the place," Eugene resident Lee Tackett said.

Tackett said he is not a regular at Neighbors, but likes the shows and is drawn to the mood of the establishment.

"I just enjoy the whole crowd," Tackett said. "It's not a meat market. You go to any bar Downtown, chances are the cops will be there at some point. That's never an issue here. People come to hang out and be with friends, not just get trashed."

Marketing major Ami Fricia decided to take her girlfriend to Neighbors for her birthday. Fricia said she has seen the show a few times and enjoys the contests and drink specials, which include

mixed drinks named for the performers and an unbeatable deal on dollar pints of Miller Lite.

Neighbors' status as the only gay bar in Eugene might scare off the uninitiated, but this is unfortunate. I spent the prior evening slamming a pitcher of IPA with friends at local sports bar, dying to escape the sight of slobbering guys ogling Britney wannabes while J. Lo crooned in the background. Suddenly, my usual haunts seemed painfully uninspired. After witnessing the uninhibited, harmless fun at Neighbors, dollar pints of Miller Lite might just be my new favorite drink of choice.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com.

# Tympanic

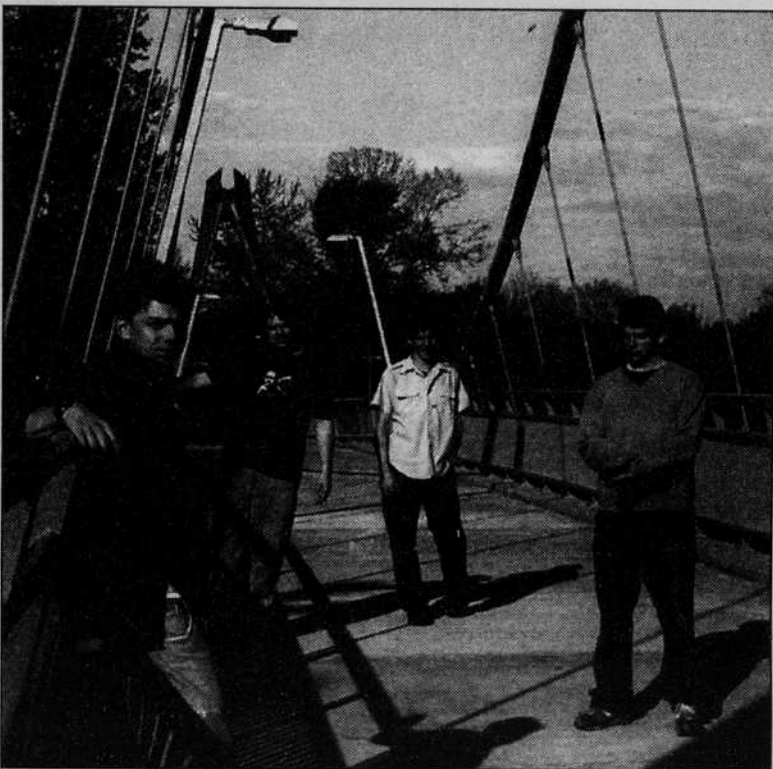
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a benefit concert for B.A.R.C., or Bands Align to Rally for the Community, at John Henry's on June 15. Tympanic will also appear at The Rainbow in Seattle on June 19, the Backstage Lounge in Vancouver, B.C., on June 27 and the Roxy Theatre on July 25.

Between tour stops, the band will collectively move from Eugene to Portland, where they are currently building a recording studio in Rogers' home. Experienced Portland music promoter Craig Howard will also join forces with the band. The group members said their immediate goal is to record a solid demo album of fresh material and pump out all the enthusiasm they can muster for their summer shows.

As the band's manager, Ryan Messick, put it, "Let's take this to the next level."

Tom Adams is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Courtesy

Eugene-based band Tympanic plans to tour and work on a demo album this summer.

# Bechard

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lobbied institution in the federal government next to Congress.

Apparently, the lobbying pays off. The CPI found that FCC officials met with industry lobbyists and executives in more than 70 closed-door meetings in the months prior to Monday's decision.

A couple of these groups did advocate for the retention of current ownership rules, but most of the "ex parte" meetings were with industry hotshots. FCC administrators only met with public interest advocates five times and held one measly official public hearing.

Powell said on Monday on the Charlie Rose Show that he cares "very passionately about diversity of

viewpoints," but that his biggest fear is not a lack of media voices, it's an overabundance of them.

Sure, Mr. Powell, there are a lot of media out there to consume, but aren't you worried that all they deliver is crap?

Contact the Pulse columnist at josephbechard@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Today's crossword solution

S	P	A	R	E		O	F	F	E	D		D	A	B	
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*"What I fear most is an overdose of image. I fear losing the ability to discriminate between the good and the ugly."*  
Wim Wenders

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