



My House organizer Marc Moscato sits on the steps of the recently closed independent art venue. **Jessica Waters Emerald**

My House

continued from page 9

bring lots of points of view together," Moscato said.

The House isn't planning to leave quietly, either. On July 26, organizers will be throwing ASuperHappyFunDayinthePark, a free event to be held in the Washington/Jefferson Park 3 to 11 p.m.

"It's a combination of all the work we've done in the past," Moscato said.

While the schedule is still tentative, the event promises to be a major one. Musical acts, mostly from the Northwest, will be performing on the main and side stages of the event. Eugene bands like Bloody Castles Ragtime Band, Black Darts, Jungle Madness, The Lullaby League and Energy Brigade are scheduled to make appearances, as are Portland's The Culottes and Bobby Birdman. Even a few bands from Olympia are on the bill, such as Old Time Relijun and The Strangers, according to the My House Web site. Updates are available at www.notmyhouse.com.

Music aside, there will also be handmade crafts, zine and poetry readings, the hand-cranked films of

Lee Krist and The Image Nation Puppet Show. The night will close with a My House film retrospective. Documentary zines about the venue will be available throughout the event.

Just because My House is closing doesn't mean there isn't hope for the future of independent arts in Eugene, however. Boyer and Markstrom have plans to open another venue of the sort as soon as they can find a space suitable for the venture.

"Our ultimate goal would be to find a warehouse space we can use as an arts and entertainment studio and performance space," said Markstrom, a University student.

Moscato said he hopes the work he does influences young people to think and be active.

"There are a lot of people interested in working without institutional support, somewhere outside of business-as-usual. People not interested in being defined by traditional approaches," Moscato said. "It's not hard to put up flyers, have people come into your basement, organize a community. This could be done by anybody."

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Carolines do pop-rock right; Branch effort lyrically limited

By Ryan Nyburg
Freelance Reporter

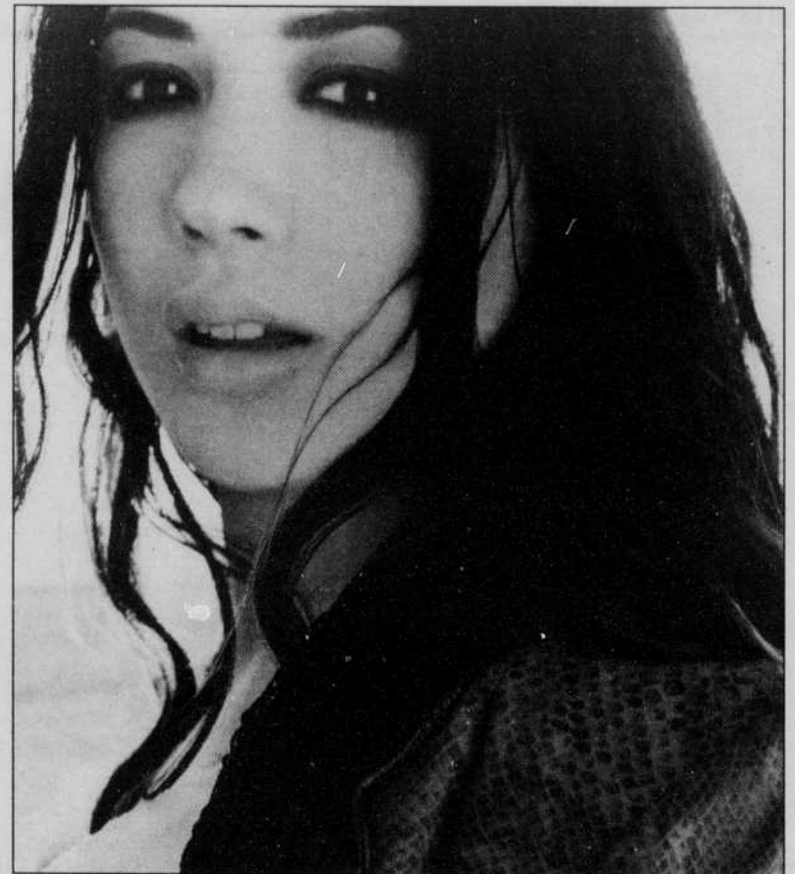
It's sad to think the only real outlet in modern music for decent pop rock is emo ("emotional punk" for the uninitiated), which has to be the most wimpy underground movement of the past few decades, tailor made for designer clothes-wearing white teenagers. That must be why the latest album from the Portland-based pop outfit The Carolines, "Youth Electronics," is so refreshing.

The album is loaded with catchy hooks, melodies and earnest-as-hell lyrics about love, unrequited and otherwise. Standard stuff, but so well done and often so clever that it's hard not to like. It's pop-rock 1970s style, with brains and feeling. While the band itself is no great diggs musically — that's never really the focus anyway — the songwriting drives the album forward with a dogged persistence. Some of the songs contain moments of pure pop brilliance, making the whole thing worth anyone's time, but the album is no classic in itself. The Carolines, incidentally, will be playing the WOW Hall on July 20.

Next up is a little tidbit for electronica fans: The Latin Project's debut "Nueva Musica." The album is an interesting combination of South American rhythms and techno dance beats, complete with Spanish vocals and a samba flavor. All well and good, but still nothing more or less than high-concept dance music.

While the music aspires to be more than the latest rave fodder, it still suffers from all the problems that have plagued dance music since the days of disco: repetitiveness, simplicity and homogenization. The music isn't really bad, just confined to the trappings of its genre, meaning it becomes pretty dull listening for anyone not hopped up on ecstasy.

Now for further proof that the Grammy Awards have lost any credence they may once have had: the latest from singer/songwriter Michelle Branch, "Hotel Paper." Branch has a couple of little gold statues under her belt, including one for a collaboration



Courtesy

Michelle Branch's new album, Hotel Paper, features much of her own songwriting.

with Carlos Santana, despite the fact that she can't seem to write a single lyric worth the spittle on Joni Mitchell's lips. She belongs to the new generation of female pop singers who write their own songs, much like Norah Jones. And like most of the rest of them, she's more looks than talent.

Branch is a good singer for what it's worth, but her lyrical content is the most bland sort of pseudo-folk clichés, including lost love and break-up problems done with no originality or sense of personality. It's all been done before, and better, by Sheryl Crow and others (Crow makes an appearance on the album by the way, but to no effect).

The album isn't terrible to listen to, however. Branch's melodies are catchy, the instrumentation is good and the production is, of course, flawless. But there's just nothing there to make it worth the trouble, so why bother? It's all packaging, no substance. So don't go for it kid, it'll rot your teeth.

And as far as blandness goes, Branch is hardly the worst. Christopher Jak might be the worst. While listening to his recent album, "Applause for the Rain," I often forgot there was music playing and had to keep going back to make sure I caught it all. There wasn't much to catch. The album is so unoriginal, so pretentious and so overproduced that it will likely be pretty successful.

The lyrical content is all inspired by the standard-issue relationship problems and brand new love clichés. Jak will probably remain a hit with the Starbucks crowd, but there is really nothing there to elevate him higher. The arrangements are so standard issue, the performance so dull and the lyrics so meaningless that every song is forgotten before it's over. But thank God for that.

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Shakra

continued from page 9

disguised as triumphs by teams of public relation hoodlums.

Make every moment your art, walking down the street with all the people you see. Write poetry in your thoughts all the time, with your mind when you're waiting in every line. Forge your own path and find your rhythm outside of the rhyme that is this homogenized time. Truth will flow from this mentality,

naturally and originally.

A true creation seems to recognize that expression is a commonality for all life. Expression does not come without adversity, but it's not something that is segregated to particular people, talents or medium. Everyone has the ability to become an artist and write poems merely by living.

Aaron Shakra is a freelance reporter for the Emerald. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Sunday

Kaplan Test Prep is offering a free "test drive" event for gauging test-taking skills for graduate school entrance exams. The event will take place at the Kaplan Center, located at East 13th Avenue above Mother Kali's Books. The event will show students what to expect on the real exams.

Times are as follows: LSAT (9 a.m.), GMAT (9 a.m.), GRE (noon), MCAT (2 p.m.) and DAT (2 p.m.). For more information or to register, call 1-800-KAP-TEST or visit <http://kaptest.com/testdrive>.

Enter the
"Pizza-n-Paradise"
Sweepstakes — contact store for details



Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

Locally Owned & Operated

Papa Size It! Make any large an X-Large only \$2 more.

South Eugene and U of O
29th and Willamette
484-PAPA (7272)

Springfield, Duck's Village, Chase Village and University Commons
Mohawk & Centennial
746-PAPA (7272)

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

PIZZA-N-PARADISE DEAL

LARGE 2-topping PIZZA and 2 liter of Coca-Cola product \$4 savings
only... **\$10⁹⁹**
Expires 8/31/03
Available in Original or Thin Crust. Not valid with any other offer or special. Limited delivery areas. \$1 charge on delivered orders.

SPECIALTY PIZZA

Large (choose from The Works, Garden Special, All The Meats, Chicken Alfredo, or Spinach Alfredo) \$4 savings
only... **\$11⁹⁹**
Expires 8/31/03
Available in Original or Thin Crust. Not valid with any other offer or special. Limited delivery areas. \$1 charge on delivered orders.



buy sell trade

Buffalo Exchange
New & Recycled Fashion

fashion that pays to be me.

131 E. 5th Ave (between Oak & Pearl) 687-2805

Stop Strok'in!

Your ego!

Start making money in the music industry!

The New-Music Business Seminar
August 16th, 2003

A full day of hard hitting information with former MCA, Warner Capital producer & studio musician **Richard Weissman** Best Selling author of *The Music Business: Career Opportunities and Self Defense*

Get a free copy of Richard's book! (\$16 value)
10 minute one-on-one with entertainment attorney **Bart Day** (\$40 value)

Whole Day Only \$95 (VISA/Mastercard accepted)

Shilo Inn
9900 SW Canyon Road
Space limited! Call for a reservation!
503-524-2646

Brought to you by TAP - TAP@powerchoices.net