



Aaron Shakra
Art falls apart

Virtues of poetry reflect all existence

Our lives are poetry, just waiting to be written. It's in the air, the rocks, trees and cars, small and large — poetry is the great potential permeating everything. Oh heck, poetry IS everything, lurking within all moments. Considering this, there is a great lack of poetry in our lives, both literal and metaphorical. It's like a missing sense to which we must retune ourselves.

How did this sense go wayward and become so aloof when it has never been so necessary in order to combat rampant judgment, selfishness and materialism of the Western world? Perhaps the question answers itself. After all, poetry stands in opposition to all that is being pushed forth as important. It contradicts these values and replaces them with a higher, simpler beauty that, once found, could never be denied. Find poetry, and watch your desire melt away into something greater than yourself.

It's time to reclaim poetry as the most universal of arts, not limited from cliques and academics to folks with Ph.D.s who use their degrees as a justification and replacement for true insight, as well as those who consider it a mere "plastic" art. Rather, poetry is a most immediate way of expression, with expression at the very least being a necessity in this life; the greatest, perhaps, being the very purpose of this life. It is a call for aboriginal thought, insight and imagination to excite an increasingly homogenized life. Poetry is an individual expression, but one that reaches farther, calls forth a greater awareness in the subject and a connection between the subject and object.

These ideas might strike a few of you as old, old school. Ralph Waldo Emerson — whose words as of late have made far too many appearances on greeting cards — had this stuff down, circa 1842. In an essay called "The Poet," DJ Emerson boldly proclaims (in a manner typical for him getting down with his badass transcendental self) that: "Words and deeds are quite indifferent modes of the divine energy. Words are also actions, and actions are a kind of words. ... The sign and credentials of the poet are, that he announces that which no man foretold. He is the true and only doctor."

The more aware poet welcomes a greater insight. The potential poet shouldn't lose the sensibility of being a student for life. Earlier in his essay, Emerson says, "The poet is the person in whom these powers are in balance, the man without impediment, who sees and handles that which others dream of, traverses the whole scale of experience." This could mean a variety of things, perhaps cultivating patience and understanding, or perhaps realizing what you pay attention to determines what you ignore. Perhaps it means trying to look outside of your eyes, then adapting to your own everyday personal life. Poetry, for being everything, is still a personal thing, which means expression doesn't limit itself

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FAIR DEAL



Fair-goers enjoy beautiful Eugene weather and exhilarating rides at the 2002 Lane County Fair. Emerald

The Lane county fair will feature attractions old and new, including rides, concerts, and talent shows

By Ryan Nyburg
Freelance Reporter

The Lane County Fair will be setting up shop in Eugene for six days of rides, food, concerts, exhibits and other family-oriented activities starting Tuesday and running through Aug. 17.

And this year, the fair will feature a couple of new additions: First is the new entertainment stage, dubbed the Cumulus Caribbean Breeze Stage and Café, located near the food court. The stage will see a variety of musical styles, including jazz, reggae, salsa, rock, folk and world beat. The stage is open to all ages, but the café, which will serve tropical-style drinks, is 21 and older only.

The other new addition is the Community Courtyard, a new venue for special activities between the Lane County Historical Museum and the Fairgrounds Auditorium. Some of the activities planned for the courtyard include the Wheelchair Sports and Recreation Expo, the Peace-Health Senior Day and a special project by Habitat for Humanity, whose volunteers plan to build four storage sheds in as many days.

The fair's biggest draws include the main stage concerts. Classic rockers Heart will perform Tuesday, the Beach Boys Wednesday and

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Appleseed Cast pens sad, listenable tunes

By Ryan Nyburg
Freelance Reporter

Eve 6 was probably the best band at their high school talent competition. Unfortunately, they failed to advance any further than that, as their new album, "It's All in Your Head," demonstrates. After being written off as one-hit wonders way back in the late 1990s, the band returns with more of the same pop-punk commercialism. For anyone who had the song "Inside Out" permanently creased into their brain from its constant air-play back in 1998, all of this will sound pathetically familiar.

CD review

The music is well done, but on the whole it's all rather uninspiring. The band hasn't grown since the last time anyone heard of them, and the entire album has a "Why bother?" feeling about it. Not necessarily bad, but not really all that great either.

The Appleseed Cast must lead very sad lives to make music like that found on their latest album, "Two Conversations." Sadness fills every second of this soft, interesting little album. The music is gentle and somber, while the melodies feel like they were taken right out of every pop rock ballad of the past ten years.

While there is nothing overtly original in the music, it's done well enough that you can enjoy it for what it is: a good collection of sad, moving songs done with style and

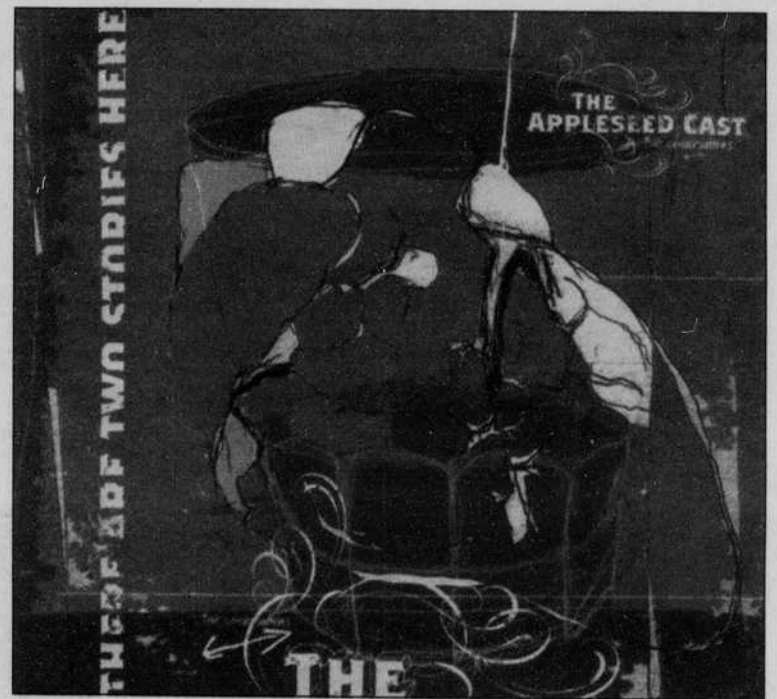
grace. The Appleseed Cast will play the WOW Hall Aug. 22.

Grace is a good quality in songwriting. So is tact. The Displaced have neither, as their new six-song, self-titled EP fully shows. They sound like a former Pixies tribute band trying to write their own songs. The problem is they lack the chops, songcraft or energy to match anything done by the Pixies, or even Frank Black and the Catholics or Breeder for that matter.

I know that comparing a humble rock combo to such musical godheads is unfair, but they draw the comparison upon themselves by sounding enough like the Pixies to risk plagiarism. The guitar solos, the vocals and the subject matter could all have come from "Doolittle" or "Bossa Nova" B-sides. They even have a song called "Stormy Weather," for Christ's sake. Not worth the trouble, at least until they learn to distill their influences a bit.

At least the Crooked Jades admit where they get their songs. The acoustic string band, which plays a mix of original material and traditional American music, is about to release their new album, "The Unfortunate Rake Vol. 2: Yellow Mercury." The album is a pitch-perfect mix of traditional folk, blues, country, bluegrass, hillbilly and gospel styles, all done with the care of a dedicated group of preservationists.

Of the album's 23 tracks, 13 list the composer as "traditional." These songs all come from a time in American history just before radio started to take its hold on culture and music became just that much more ho-



Courtesy

The Appleseed Cast will perform at the WOW Hall Aug. 22.

mogenized. Of the other ten songs, nine are original compositions (there is also a nice little Hank Williams cover) that show the influence of the traditional tracks, but are updated to a modern context.

All of this makes for great listening. The music, performed entirely on an eclectic mix of acoustic string instruments, is immaculate, joyful and sometimes creepy, in the way old scratchy records can sound creepy. The

band's general philosophy toward its music might be a little too purist for some tastes, but the album is worth owning, even as a reference guide to old-time songs and songwriters.

The Crooked Jades will be making their Eugene debut at Sam Bond's Garage, where they will have their CD release party Aug. 22.

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.