

Hip-hop duo Non-Prophets tours to support 'Hope'

Sage Francis' hip-hop duo, the Non-Prophets, will play alongside other musicians at WOW Hall this Sunday

By Carl Sundberg
Pulse Columnist

Sage Francis has been rapping since he was 8 years old. He has toured the country once with Anticon and again with Atmosphere. Francis is now half of a hip-hop duo with Joe Beats, the Non-Prophets. They are currently on tour to support their album "Hope." Also slated for appearance on the bill is Grand Buffet, Mac Lethal, The Gimme Fund and Macromantics. The Non-Prophets will make their way to Eugene this Sunday.

Sage Francis talked to the Emerald about hip-hop, partying with Willie Nelson and psychically killing George Bush's dog.

Emerald: How is the tour going? What (have) been some of the highlights thus far?

Sage Francis: The tour is going great. Naked people and hard drugs keep the train moving. The best thing was smoking a joint with Willie Nelson at the House of Blues in New Orleans during Mardi Gras. Can you believe that? Normally I'm like, "Nah, man ... I'm straight edge." But fuck, you gotta make an exception for Willie Nelson.

Emerald: For anyone not familiar with your music, what should people

expect at your shows?

SF: They can expect the performers to be in your face. None of us are shy on stage.

Emerald: I read that you signed with Epitaph Records. What made you decide to do that?

SF: The novelty is worth it alone. A rapper signing to Epitaph Records. I thought that was hilarious. And my label mates are Tom Waits, Bad Religion and Noam Chomsky. Sign me up.

Emerald: How has the Internet helped or hindered your work?

SF: The Internet was essential in getting my music heard by people who would never had a chance to cop my album otherwise. It spread my name around the world before I even got a chance to put out an album. I am grateful for that. But the game constantly changes, and that's especially true on the Internet. It hasn't hindered me at all, but I see how some people have stunted their career by putting too much faith in the Internet. If your career only exists on a computer screen you are not gonna do shit in this world.

Emerald: Who are some poets that you find inspiring?

SF: Patricia Smith, Kwesi Davis, Bill McMillan, Jeff McDaniel, Derrick Brown, Jared Paul, Bernard Dolan, George McKibbens and so many more that I can't think of at the moment.

Emerald: How has your background and degree in journalism influenced your writing?

SF: It gave me the idea that my point of view isn't always what should be

presented. My bias is going to be in my music no matter what approach I take, so it is a good idea to present information as honestly as possible and let people make up their own minds about certain things. I get cre-

socially conscious mentality. What do you see as solutions to the injustices that are taking place across the board?

SF: Awareness is the number one step. Direct action is one of the final steps if none of the others work. So-



Courtesy

Joe Beats (left) and Sage Francis of the hip-hop duo Non-Prophets will bring their tour to Eugene. Other bands will join them, including Grand Buffet and Macromantics.

ative with that though. I know when I am breaking the rules of journalism, but it isn't nearly as much as what I see on Fox or CNN.

Emerald: Many of your lyrics and attitudes in your music express a very

cial disobedience seems unavoidable sometimes. We are rats backed into a corner. When a rat is backed into a corner it is given no choice but to attack.

Emerald: What is the role of

DUO

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said South Indian music is more mathematical than North Indian music because the tempos switch between different speeds systematically.

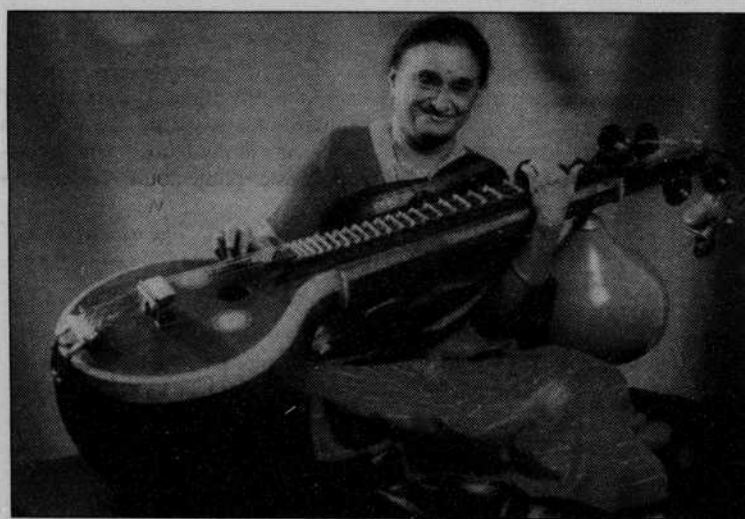
Padmanabhan and Chandramouli's performance will include improvisation, compositions and vocals. They will play a highlighted piece called "ragam-tanam-pallavi," which will feature a raga exposition, pulsating improvisation and a solo by Gopalaratnam. The duo will wear traditional Indian saris. A pre-concert lecture and demonstration will take place Friday at 2 p.m. in the EMU International Lounge, where the three performers will discuss their musical backgrounds and the history and cultural elements of South Indian music.

Kosmatka said the duo is unique because they often break into song while playing. During most Indian music concerts, vocals and instrumentals are provided by separate performers. He also said their ability to improvise onstage flawlessly is impressive.

"Usually they decide what they are going to play the same evening of a concert," he said. "One night when they were performing in Berlin, (Padmanabhan) didn't tell (Chandramouli) what they were playing. When she sang the first note on stage, her daughter was able to pick up the raga and tala."

The show begins at 8 p.m., and tickets are available only at the door for \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students. The box office will open at 7 p.m.

Contact the Pulse reporter at natashachilingirian@dailyemerald.com.



Courtesy

Rajeswari Padmanabhan will perform with her daughter at Beall Hall on Friday.

PULSE BRIEF

University employee releases first album

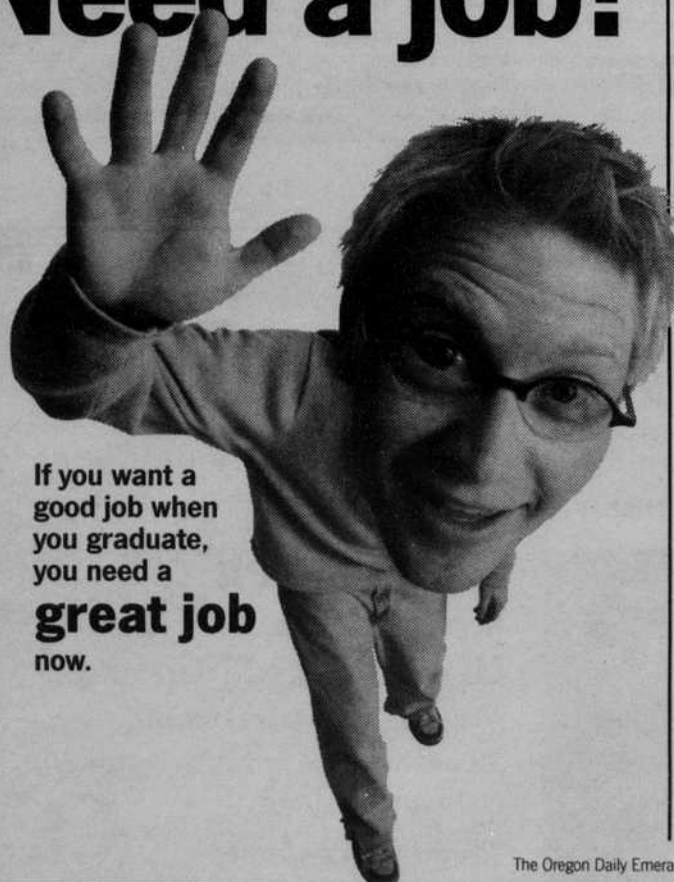
University graduate and Student Life Office Manager Mayr Makenna recently released her first CD, entitled "Out of the Bind." The Eugene resident said she controlled all aspects of her record.

"It's all original vocals," said Makenna, who also plays piano and guitar on the album. She produced the album herself, doing everything from creating the cover photo art to purchasing 200 CDs for distribution through her Web site, <http://www.maymakenna.com>.

Makenna was raised in Oklahoma, and after living in Los Angeles she traveled up I-5 and found a home in Eugene. In 1992, she earned a degree in

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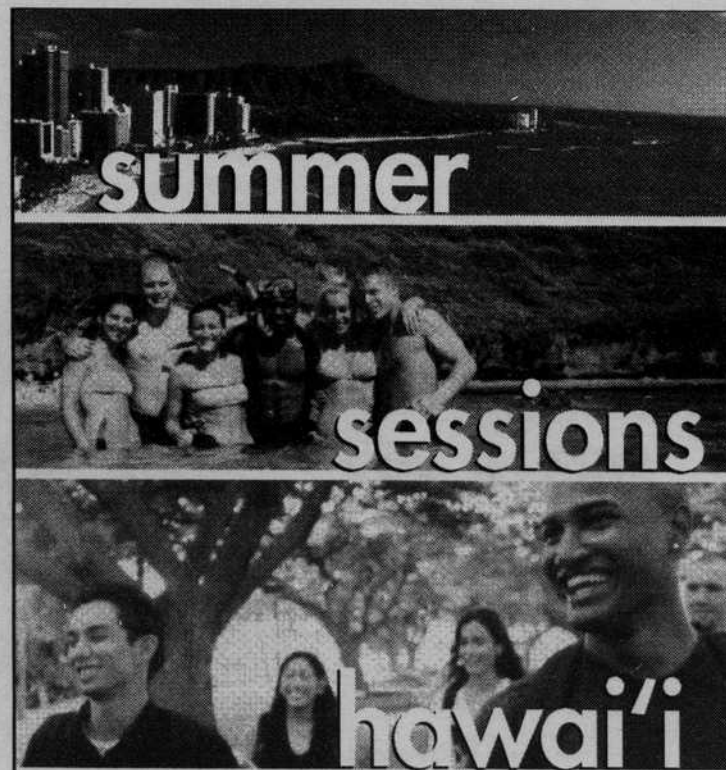
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Oregon Daily Emerald

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